

# **SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS**

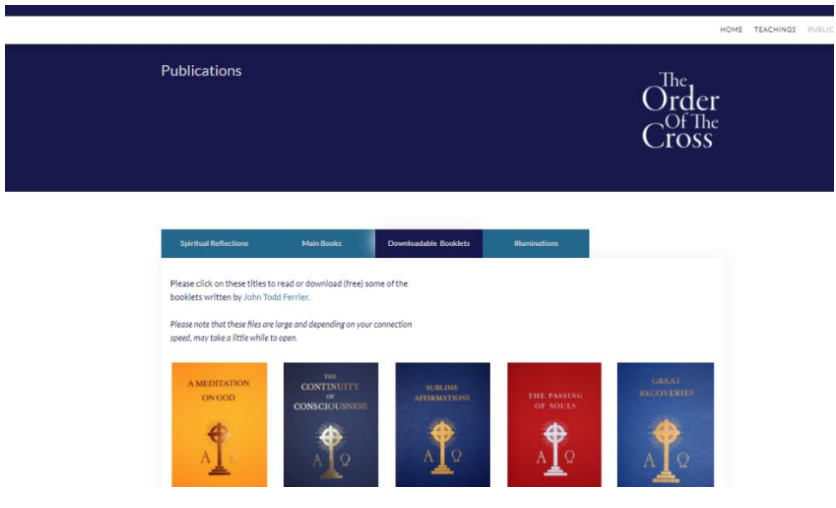
**December 2022, January February 2023**



The Order of the Cross

## ORDER OF THE CROSS BOOKLETS

Free downloadable booklets can be found on our website ([orderofthecross.org](http://orderofthecross.org)) by going to Publications and clicking on Downloadable Booklets, as below. These are in pdf format.



## Thoughts to Inspire



### What is Truth?

**W**HAT IS TRUTH? It is an old question. Many ask it, but few find the answer. Knowledge concerning different departments of nature and life may be true; but they are not the Truth. In speaking, as well as in thinking and feeling, and also in action, one should ever be true. To be otherwise is to deny Truth. Yet these are but qualities of the effect of Truth upon the mind, and the heart, and the inner Being. The Truth is not a quality, although it has qualities. It is not an attribute, though it has attributes. The Truth is comprised in the term the Divine Love and Wisdom. So Truth is known as Love and Wisdom realized; and all else could be but radiations and adumbrations and effects in manifestation of that Love and that Wisdom. A Soul in Truth is not simply and only a Soul seeking for Truth, and striving to be true in its seeking; it is one whose seeking has brought the beautiful realization in which the Soul understands. As GOD is Love and Wisdom, so is GOD Truth. HE is the meaning of all things as HE is the sum of all things; and only in HIM, through HIM, from HIM can a Soul be filled with Truth.

*From Life's Mysteries Unveiled*

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*From the Teachings***The Star of Bethlehem**

**T**HE STORY of the Magians is a beautiful one. It is beautiful even as it is found in the Gospel Record, notwithstanding its materialization. It is beautiful even as an outward history when applied (as it now generally is) to the event of the birth into this world of the Master. But if it be beautiful as a story of such outward events, what must it be when its real meanings are beheld by the Soul and realised as an experience? If its charm as an outward history associated with the birth of the beloved Master into these outward spheres, be so great, what shall we say of its spiritual charm and its transcendent glory when it is understood in its true inward meaning? If as a literal story its wonderfulness is beyond the understanding of many, is there any wonder that its inner meaning should appear beyond the apprehension of all who have never gazed into the spiritual heavens, never beheld the angelic objects of those heavens, never seen a star upon those heavens, and know not the meaning of such an appearance?

For the Star which it is said the Magians beheld in the Orient, has once more been seen. The Magians who then beheld it and went to Bethlehem to find the newborn Christ, have beheld its arising once more and have gone forth to seek out the one born in Bethlehem who is to be Redeemer and Christ. The star arising was therefore the Christhood arising before the vision of the Magians. It was the star of Bethlehem which shone so brightly in the heavens, the star of the Redeemed Life whose purity was beautiful to behold, the star which attracted Souls to Bethlehem (the Redeemed Life) when the Christ-child was born within the Soul.

*The Master, pp129/130*

## **Reflections upon The Star of Bethlehem**

**John Pignéguy**

**T**HE TALE of The Three Magi is one of the most significant aspects of the whole Christmas story. Of course, this story contains a wealth of meaning on more than one level, a fact that makes it so relevant and fascinating to each one of us. On our spiritual journey through life, there is much to distract us at every turn as we seek to follow the true path. This does not necessarily mean that these sorts of encounters have no special purpose for us, indeed possibly quite the opposite – ironically, they can in fact be helpful pointers to guide us on our journey.

It is interesting to read in the cover-extract how Our Friend's positivity quietly carries us forward in this respect, helping us not only to see with clearer vision but also with a clearer and more intuitive outlook. Thus, The Three Magi can be seen as guides to, or aspects of, 'The Way of Light, Love and Life,' which is something that we can probably relate to – not in a general sense but particularly in relation to our own spiritual journey and aspirations.

In traditional story, the journey of the Magi takes place in winter, with all the various aspects of travelling a long distance at that time of year. This can be seen as a metaphor for the Soul on its journey to seek the Truth and being blocked by the opposing forces who seek to divert it from its true path. The Star, or the light of inner truth, thus becomes their guide and guardian, enabling them to eventually reach their destination. This is surely a blessed help for all of us as we, individually and collectively, seek to reach higher realms of spiritual awareness and understanding.

Thus, as we move forward into a new year (in Earthly terms) we can carry with us at all times the certain knowledge that we are indeed guided by the Star.

## ORDER OF THE CROSS LITERATURE

The primary books written by John Todd Ferrier are available free of charge by going onto our website under Publications and clicking on the appropriate button or by contacting one of the people below, depending on your location.

### Books

**The Master: His Life and Teachings**

**The Logia or Sayings of the Master**

**Life's Mysteries Unveiled**

**Life's Mysteries Unveiled – PAPERBACK**

**The Divine Renaissance Vol. 1**

**The Divine Renaissance Vol. 2**

**The Message of Ezekiel**

**The Mystery of the Light Within Us**

**The Message of Isaiah**

**Divine Mysteries**

**UK: Contact Margaret Jack**

Email: [literature.uk@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.uk@orderofthecross.org)

**North America: Contact Alexander Guza** Email:

[literature.usa@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.usa@orderofthecross.org)

**Australia & New Zealand Contact Claire Ede** Email:

[literature.au@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.au@orderofthecross.org)

## **A Song of the Soul**

I would praise THEE, O my LORD, with all my Being;  
with sweet melodies would I make manifest THY  
Holy Motion within me.

My Soul would share the Choral Harmonies of all  
THINE Angels as they sing of the coming again of  
THY Zion unto all THY Sons and Daughters, for the  
manifestation of THY Holy Child, Jesus Christ.

The Music of THY Heavens doth fill my Sanctuary with  
the resonant Chorales sung in Praise of THEE, as  
THOU dost cause THY Resplendent Wisdom to more  
fully break within me, heralding the Day of THY  
Coming to make gloriously manifest THY Presence  
with all THY Children who are still dwelling upon  
the Earth.

With the dawning of the New Year of the Earth, THOU  
comest as the unfading Dawn of the Glory of Love,  
and the Eternal Hope for its realization by all THY  
Children.

Of these things would I evermore sing, and with all my  
Being Praise, Worship and Adore THEE, for THOU  
art indeed glorious in the giving of THY Love and  
Wisdom unto me.

*Songs of Israel, p80*

## **Western Area Gathering at Sheldon near Exeter**

**Anthony Everett**

**T**HE WESTERN area Gathering this autumn was held at the Sheldon Retreat Centre near Exeter.

It was the first time an Order of the Cross gathering had been held here and it was an ideal venue for our fellowship. The centre is in an isolated location at the end of a rural no through road and the site occupies 45 acres of gardens, fields and woodland footpaths. As a group, we were fortunate to have sole use, with a large sitting room for our more informal activities, a separate sanctuary space with large windows giving vistas to the woodlands outside. There were also two chapels and labyrinth for those who sought spaces for quiet meditative and contemplative time.

The Sheldon community is an open-hearted and hospitable lay Christian community who seek out the values of stability, stewardship and servanthood and they really helped make our Gathering very special. The catering was 100% vegan and mostly organic and was very much appreciated by all. Even the weather was perfect with very warm sunshine that enabled us to gather on a marvellous expansive patio to feel the healing rays from the heavens.

Worship services and meditations were led by Marjorie Van Zyl, Rebecca Kean and Vivien Plews. Brenda Bunion accompanied us on the organ and a CD recording of a Russian choir featuring basso profundo voices was also enjoyed. In the evenings we shared stories and experiences and even had a music quiz. Everyone contributed something, from the taking of a service, to carrying bags for others, to singing loudly to help the rest of us sing in tune and by just being there.

We are immensely grateful to Margaret and Stephen Jack for the organization and to each and everyone for their contribution to the fellowship and for making the gathering at Sheldon so extra special.

In this hour, as a Band of THY Children, would unite with all the Heavenly Hosts in the Praise of THEE, in all the motion of our Being,



and in all our Service worship THEE, and in our Childhood embodiment adore THEE.



## **Communal Sharing Circle: Services and Studies by Phone**

**T**HE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. Join us as a reader or listener—all you need is a phone!

Readings taken from the books are referenced on the schedule; others require a service document. To receive documents by mail or email, contact the Coordinator as listed below.

**TWO REGIONAL CALLS** are scheduled to serve our global community :—

I: North America, Australia and New Zealand – 00:00 UTC

II: North America and the UK / Europe – 16:00 UTC

Local call times and dial-in numbers are listed on the following pages. If possible, please call in before the scheduled hour.

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **DECEMBER 2022**

- |    |        |   |
|----|--------|---|
| 4  | I & II | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Greg McMillan<br><i>“The Land of Gilead”</i> – <i>Herald</i> 9, p. 207-222   |
| 11 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: John Blossom<br><i>“The Mystery of the Seven Thunders”</i> [document]         |
| 18 | I & II | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye<br><i>“If Christ Came Back”</i> , Pt. 1 – [booklet], p.3-14 |
| 25 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: Jan Holmes<br><i>“A Christmas Story”</i> [document]                           |

#### **JANUARY 2023**

- |   |        |  |
|---|--------|--|
| 1 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: Patricia Sherwood<br><i>“The Realm of Radiance”</i> [document] |
|---|--------|--|

8 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Sophia Howard  
“From Gold to Clay and Back Again” Pt.1, Daniel, 54-65

15 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
“If Christ Came Back”, Pt. 2 – [booklet], p.14-23

22 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Richard Palmer  
“The Triune GOD” – Herald 31, p. 2-12

## **FEBRUARY**

5 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Greg McMillan  
“The Divine Work” – Herald 13, p. 91-104

12 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Sophia Howard  
“From Gold to Clay and Back Again” Pt. 2, Daniel, 65-75

19 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
“The Feet-Washing” – Herald 29, p.141-149

26 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Lindajeane Stewart  
“A Meditation on GOD” – Herald 33, p. 54-68

**LOCAL CALL TIMES** – Communal Sharing calls are scheduled year-round on Universal Time (UTC = GMT). To find your local call-in time, refer to schedule A or B (below) according to whether you are currently observing Standard or Daylight Saving Time. For the months of December, January and February all areas world-wide will be observing schedule B.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** and to receive service documents by mail or email, please contact the Communal Sharing Coordinator:

Esther Gowan • [esthergowan@earthlink.net](mailto:esthergowan@earthlink.net) • (1) 805-542-9133

<p><b>A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere</b></p> <p><b>I A:</b> 00:00 UTC (= GMT)  5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.)  8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.)  8 am AWST  10 am AEST  12 pm NZST</p> <p><b>II A:</b> 16:00 UTC  9 am PDT  12 pm EDT  5 pm BST (U.K.)  (12 am next day AWST)  (4 am next day NZST)</p>	<p><b>B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere</b></p> <p><b>I B:</b> 00:00 UTC (= GMT)  4 pm PST (Sat. eve.)  7 pm EST (Sat. eve.)  8 am AWST  11 pm AEDT  1 pm NZDT</p> <p><b>II B:</b> 16:00 UTC  8 am PST  11 am EST  4 pm GMT (U.K.)  (12 am next day AWST)  (5 am next day NZDT)</p>
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INTERNATIONAL PHONE NUMBERS FOR COMMUNAL SHARING CALLS	
COUNTRY	PHONE NUMBER
Australia	(0) 2 8355 1039
Canada	(1) 647-497-9379
France	(0) 1 70 95 05 85
Ireland	(0) 19 030 050
New Zealand	(0) 9 925 0481
Sweden	(0) 853 527 817
United Kingdom	(0) 330 221 0099
United States	(1) 646-749-3117
<b>ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # (same for all areas)</b>	

## Trees

Of all the creation in the world  
the loveliest of all are trees.  
The proud beauty of a lonely pine,  
the rugged splendour of a solitary oak,  
The whispering magic of a forest deep;  
these put a troubled mind at ease.  
I think of an oak grown tall and stately,  
or a silver birch exquisite and tiny.  
Each a true expression of life pure and humble,  
lonely yet divinely proud.  
Each one rising and putting out branches,  
growing more lovely.  
Growing like Angels' thoughts transcendent,  
nearer and nearer to GOD

*Frances Earl*

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## **Forthcoming Gatherings 2023**

**Please see our website for details**

**[Orderofthecross.org](http://Orderofthecross.org)**

### **Easter at Sarum College, Salisbury**

**May**

**Glenthorne House Gathering, Grasmere.**

**July**

**Annual Fellowship Gathering, Ammerdown**

## **Spiritual Reflections Publication Timetable**

<b>Issues will be published in the first week of:</b>	<b>Date contributions are to be received by</b>	<b>The three-month period the issue will cover</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>February 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March April May</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June July August</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September October November</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>November 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December January February</b>

**The next issue of the Spiritual Reflections  
will be published at the beginning of February 2023.**

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAILS**

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Ian Heathcote at:

The Order of the Cross  
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3AX  
Email: [membership@orderofthecross.org](mailto:membership@orderofthecross.org)

This will ensure that Spiritual Reflections is sent to your correct address and that your contact details are updated on our database.

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