

# **SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS**

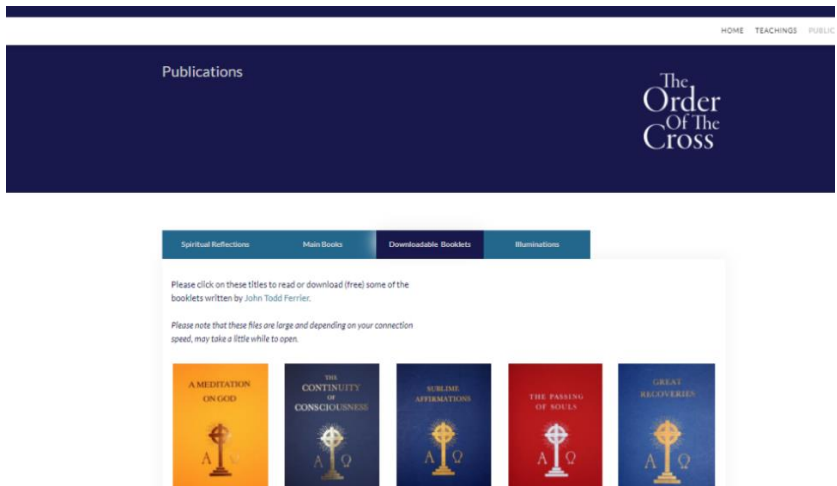
**September October November 2022**



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



### Man's Place in the Universe

**M**AN'S PLACE in the Universe as a unit does seem a small affair. So does our Earth in comparison with the Glorious Universe of Suns. So does our system in comparison with some of the greater Systems. Yet not one is without the Divine Purpose at the heart of it, and the fashion of the Divine idea in the Principle of it. So that when the full unfoldment of Sun, Planet or Soul takes place, the Divine Idea is perfected and the sacred Fashion of our FATHER-MOTHER revealed in the unit.

Man's place in the Universe denotes that he is a sharer of the Mystery, and because he is, he has the capacity to grow in consciousness into the realization of that Mystery.

From *Herald* XVIII, p73

*From the Teachings*

**Unto the Great Silence**

**H**OW BLESSED an experience for the Soul who can take its flight from out the midst of the world's noises begotten of its most inharmonious conditions, and reach the Sanctuary of Being, and stand mid the Great Silence of the Presence who fills that sacred House! How transcendent the experience of the Soul who has the power to move from out the heart of the world's maelstrom with its life-destroying whirlpools resulting from the breaths of contrariety, and soar into those rarefied atmospheres represented by the Angelic and Divine Worlds, there to be the recipient of the blessing begotten of the magnetic motion of the Breaths wafted from out the Sanctuary of all Being!

Within the Sanctuary and amid the Great Silence, the Soul comes into the vision glorious, and stands before the high Altar where the Eternal Presence mediates. From out the bosom of that hidden Mystery there flow unto such an one the living streams, magnetic, energising, life-giving, and illumining; and the Soul knows that the overshadowing canopy above the Altar before which it bows and on which it sacrifices, is verily that Overshadowing and Encompassing which are expressive of the motion of the Eternities.

That Sanctuary is rich indeed, in every part of it, with the testimonies of the glory of HIM Whose Presence fills it.

*Divine Renaissance II, p5*

## **Reflections upon Unto the Great Silence**

**John Pignéguy**

SILENCE IS A RARE commodity in a busy world, or at least it is if we let it be so. We have much to occupy our lives in a variety of ways, some of it important and some not so much, but all of it taking our minds away from the more reflective parts of our nature. Some of this is caused by necessity in the way that the world works – modern technology and gadgetry, as well as social media, are useful in all sorts of ways, but they can also cause something of an addiction, again if we allow them to. We ‘do’ because we ‘can’, not because we necessarily ‘need to.’ The anxiety of ‘missing out’ can cause all sorts of problems that have been well documented. The control of these feelings and experiences is an art in itself, but an art that we need continually to practise, and to increasingly develop, thus giving ourselves a real chance of positive balance and perspective in our everyday lives. Easier to write about or talk about certainly than to actually accomplish, but that makes it all the more worthwhile.

As with anything in life, the more you practise, the more likely you are to achieve your goal, and you will also learn a lot about yourself in the process. The spiritual life needs constant nurturing, especially when we are out-and-about in the world in our various ways, and this positive nurturing should always be at the forefront of our lives. To be in a crowd, or walking the noisy streets, and to still be able to maintain a sense of balance and blessing that an awareness of “inner silence” brings with it, is a state-of-mind that is quite possible to achieve. With this sense of constant renewal, we can lift our daily life and activities to a level where we can feel that it is we who are in control, bringing into everything that we do the knowledge that the Presence is indeed with us at all times, making our life “rich indeed, in every part of it.”

## 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)

## **Let There Be Light**

Light my lamp dear FATHER-MOTHER  
As the lamplighters of old,  
That your light may shine in the world,  
To illumine the darkness.  
Even though my flame be dim  
In time it may grow brighter  
As oil from the Eternal Source  
Of an unfathomable well  
Will refill the lamp,  
That its rays may reflect  
Like the Sardius stone  
Glowing with the warmth of THY Love  
Shed thru' the RA of THY Radiance.

**Rosemary Smith**

## **Visiting Ammerdown**

### **Jane Bennett**

**I**N KEEPING with very unknown times of late, Kath and I had several hours to make a decision to travel over to Ammerdown this year. Luckily, we both felt excited and open to the opportunity so we grabbed it with both hands. Passports were expedited and suddenly the day arose and we set off to the airport. Trish was sadly unable to make it and our thoughts were with her.

The trip over was a long one and we managed to arrive one day after extreme heat in England. Heathrow was deserted but no problems with luggage getting lost. We proudly navigated the train to Paddington and our hotel. London was beautiful with the plane trees and potted flowers. Hyde Park was a lovely short walk from the hotel. We set off for Bath by train and found ourselves in a very busy tourist mecca.

Then on to Ammerdown and a lovely welcome by old and new friends. Over the next 10 days we shared stories, opened our hearts and connected over common ground. We felt so joyous and grateful to be amongst such lovely people. The Gathering was gentle, flexible and well organised. We loved seeing the surrounding towns of Frome, Glastonbury and Wells. As time came to say goodbye it was hard to part with such beautiful countryside. Hopping off the plane in Perth and seeing the harsh Australian landscape was surprisingly hard to bear! As our lives return to 'normal' we are reminding each other of how to hold the wonderful love in our hearts that we received from you all. These Gatherings are so important to keep us connected and feeling close to special friends so far away.



## **Annual Gathering of the Fellowship July 26th - August 1st 2022 Richard Ashley**

**T**HE ANNOUNCEMENT of the Gathering described its purpose as “Finding the Light as an united family through spirituality, creativity and fellowship” and it certainly succeeded in these aims.

In contrast to the previous year, when it was mainly a family gathering due to restrictions on numbers caused by Covid, Ammerdown was full this year and the Dancers were back. It was indeed a Gathering of the wider Order Family comprising both Members and Families of Members. We had the privilege of welcoming Members from Australia, New Zealand and North America.

To the children it was a very special time; many had been looking forward to it for a whole year and the joy of meeting up again was evident. To the adults there was the quieter joy of being reunited in fellowship. Freed from the everyday chores of housekeeping, preparing meals and washing up there was time to relax, enjoy conversations, read and study the teachings. We were of course blessed with very fine weather and with beautiful gardens and country nearby. There was no incentive to leave Ammerdown during the whole Gathering.

The days followed a similar framework of Morning Prayers or a Service after breakfast, swimming after lunch with adults allowed the first half hour to swim quietly before the dive-bombing began, and after tea groups to study the Teachings. In the evenings there was some form of Fellowship in the John Todd room. Into this basic framework were fitted all sorts of other activities, dance, art and crafts etc. Some of the things produced are shown in the photographs of the Gathering. On Saturday night there was the traditional toasting of Marshmallows over an open fire, which this year because of the fire risk was in a steel fire pit in the courtyard.

Many people were involved in making the Gathering a happy and successful one including the Ministrants, Study Leaders and those who ran the other activities particularly the Organising Committee who put the whole programme for the Gathering together. Our thanks

must go to all of them and to anyone who contributed that I have not mentioned. Our thanks must also go to the staff at Ammerdown, who looked after us so well, and the Jolliffs for permitting us to use their swimming pool.

The theme of Unity was evident but what came over to me most was the Love that the Gathering generated. As long as the people who attended, Members and non-members, hold onto the basic fact that GOD is Love and that it is Love that heals and redeems the world the Gathering will have achieved its purpose.

### **Studies at the Annual Gathering** **Richard Palmer**

**H**OW GOOD to gather again and share with so many Friends our wonderful Message.

We shared in a relatively small group of about seven or eight of us a most potent unfoldment in *Life's Mysteries Unveiled* p290 *The Passion of the Soul*. Although fairly brief, it is deep and moving and recommended reading, one could not do better than by quoting our founder:

The nature of a Soul's passion is contained in the Mystery of Love. Love is the Divine Principle within the Being; not a quality, but The Mystery; the Divine Arche to become in realization the Sacred Amen in individuated form. Love is a quality in its manifestation, in the degree of its revealing in ministry; but in its nature it is The Mystery itself, having within itself all the qualities of good, of the true, of the beautiful, of the harmonious, of the gentleness of GOD, of consecration, of blessing, of adoration, of absolute giving. And the passion of the soul in its very nature is the desire begotten of the motion of Love within the Being. (p291)

How wonderful is that Love in its purpose, desiring into being such children as we are! How tremendous is the passion of the Eternal Mystery of Love in its motion, flowing through myriad channels to make Itself manifest, making every channel glorious with its own Mystery and Motion. (p295)

Would ye understand the LORD's Passion in the Oblation? Realize within yourselves the passion of Love to give to the Divine, to give for the Divine, even unto the absolute giving of all one has; not simply on the outer planes, but all one has of attributes and of powers and of consciousness. For the ultimate of the Soul's Passion is to find the Great Deep. And in finding the Great Deep of perfect Realization, the Being is one with the Divine, and as one from the Divine ... full of the same Passion, the same Love, the same marvellous Life. (p297)

Thank you to all who shared so many helpful contributions, spoken or silent. Something very special was generated, of atmosphere, understanding, and degrees of realisation, surely the Angels were present there ministering to each one.

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### **Photographs from the Annual Gathering**



**Annual Gathering Group Photograph**



**Singing in the John Todd Room**



**Toasting Marshmallows in the Courtyard**



**Dancing on the Lawn**





**Window Art**



**Woven Crosses**



**Weaving Crosses**

## **Reflections on the Gathering in Mandurah: 13-15th May 2022 Theme: The Holy Grail Patricia Sherwood**

**O**N RETURNING home on the Sunday afternoon, after the great May Gathering in Mandurah, our hearts were filled with joy and our spirits were tranquil and at peace. Over the past three days we learned, communicated, laughed and above all felt the Presence of GOD, the FATHER-MOTHER. In *Life's Mysteries Unveiled* our founder says, "What is the Order of the Cross? It is an informal fellowship, here or elsewhere, for purposes of spiritual culture alone, and sweet ministry to Souls". This weekend was indeed a sweet ministry to our Souls.

The Theme for the weekend was *The Holy Grail*. The weekend consisted of: Movement, Group Sharing, Studies, Historical review of the sacred Grail in art and religion, Meditations, Craft, and Services.

We all missed Janet, our wise elder who has gone into the care of her younger son and moved away from the region. We did a prayer and blessings for her sending her our love and honouring her gifts with a candle and a flower each of us placed on the table for her before we started the gathering. It was the first occasion without her and our 12 spiritual seekers who have met over 3 years have now become 11 who gather on the physical planes.

### **Morning Movement**

Every morning our exercise expert, Katherine, guided us in the energy exercises of Qigong. The cool clear mornings were lovely and a real sense of togetherness and energy was felt by all.

### **Group Sharing**

On the first evening of the Gathering we sang and learned new hymns, shared with the group on how each one of us cope with the ups and downs of life and finally listened to a most enlightening video called *The Holy Grail Found* by Rory Duff. This is well worth a watch as it reveals how science is now seeing the Holy Grail as places on the planet where the Divine grids intersect and form profound energetic

resonance which enable the seeker to more easily become touched by the Presence that governs the Universe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAabowqZAx4>

This evening set the scene for the rest of the weekend, and it was really lovely to reconnect and enjoy the company of like souls as we travel together through these turbulent times like the apostles in the boat tossed upon the stormy seas but knowing the Christ Presence is within to still the tempestuous waters.

### **The Studies**

This was a time of reflection and discussion on the topic of "The Mystery of the Four Breaths". The readings were taken from the teachings of The Order of the Cross as given by Reverend Todd Ferrier and Trish led us superbly in our discussions. It was fascinating to learn about the Four Gates and how the four keys to the Four Breaths were: Life, Light, Energy and Enrichment expressed through Service. We also learned in depth using the spiritual model of a human being consisting of all of the seven bodies exactly what transformations need to occur in each body to realise human, celestial and divine Christhood: for these states are each arrivals at the Holy Grail, the realisation of the Presence at ever higher levels within ourselves as all our bodies become so purified that we finally live in At-one-ment with the Divine Presence. A couple of hours just vanish when we seek to explore such sacred themes.

### **Power Point Presentation**

Frank with a relaxed and humorous demeanour presented his very informative, cleverly crafted power point on Saturday evening. We were given a historical overview of the development of the Mythology of the Holy Grail through folk law, literature, art and religion.

### **Meditations**

We had two beautiful, thoughtful and uplifting meditations this weekend helping us to connect to our FATHER-MOTHER. The first Meditation was on Saturday morning and Katherine presented it with finesse and poise. On Sunday Morning Jane eloquently and gracefully

spoke the words of Our Friend leading us into a greater appreciation of the Holy Grail within us.

## **Craft**

One of the highlights of the weekend was creating our own individual Holy Grail. Jane organised the craft sessions and used her wonderful creative ability and organisational skills to guide us into making our 'materialised' Holy Grails. We used plaster of Paris bandage rolls and plastic cups and bowls for moulds. The end results were magnificent! We emblazoned them with silver, gold and sacred symbols each reflecting the diversity of our beings and talents.

## **Services**

Rose was the Ministrant at the Saturday Service and her motion was so sacred that it truly inspired Divine Grace. The Service, which was focused on The Holy Grail was so beautifully elucidated by readings from the *Mystery of the Light Within Us*.

Trish was the Ministrant for the Eucharist Service. This Service was the culmination of the weekend and it was truly beautiful. She spoke about the Holy Grail and of the Presence within passionately and with joy. She elucidated the three great ascensions: Galilee, Bethany and Olivet and how as we arise within ascending these great summits, The Holy Grail becomes an ever more palpable reality within the Being.

In that Fellowship they will eat of the Bread, which is the Flesh or Substance of the Son of GOD, and drink of the Cup which contains the Wine or Blood of that Holy One. In that act they will be the possessors of the Holy Grail.

*The Mystery of the Light Within Us*, p53

## **Post script!**

Not everything went smoothly either as life has its ups and downs, highs and lows ... We had mosquitoes during exercise, squeaky chairs when there should be quiet, music in the service that was not turned off in time and the splendid purple lamp accidentally knocked down and broken when we all were enthusiastically getting ready for the photograph of us and our chalices. But the compassion and love and




joy within the group were palpable and wow our singing has improved so much since our last Gathering. We are still hoping though Annie will come to one of our next Gatherings to lead our singing ... and the Angels find a musical person to engage in our spiritual community.

PPS. We have some amazing gourmet cooks in our group but we all agreed that the food was fantastic. Purely Baked caterers delivered to our door dairy free, gluten free, vegan food, which was astonishingly tasty, creative and sooooo good. We have provided general guidelines, as they had not done vegan food before but after four weekends catering for us, they have become masterful and now advertise that they cater for vegans as well. The diversity of taste was amazing and really, we could write a report on the nourishment we received from this food alone.



## Forthcoming Gatherings 2022

**Please see our website for details**



SEP 17 - SEP 25

*Ojai Retreat & Inn*

OPEN TO ALL

**North American Gathering**

🕒 Sep 17 04:00 PM - Sep 25 10:00 AM

📍 Ojai Retreat & Inn



NOV 14 - NOV 21

OPEN TO ALL

**Glenthorne Open Gathering**

🕒 Nov 14 04:00 PM - Nov 21 10:00 AM

📍 Glenthorne Centre (UK)

### Glenthorne Open Gathering

An invitation and application form are enclosed with the postal version of this Spiritual Reflections.

### Zoom Gathering Organized by the Northern Area

THE NORTHERN AREA would like to invite all interested Members and Friends to join them in a day of Worship and Fellowship on Saturday 22nd October 2022. The Gathering will run from 10am till 9pm with breaks for lunch, afternoon tea and evening meal. We hope that those joining from abroad will be able to enjoy the parts of the programme that fit with their local time.

The Zoom link and the day's activities will be sent nearer the time; but please add this to your diary if you would like to join us, or contact either Andrea: [dm.akerr26@btinternet.com](mailto:dm.akerr26@btinternet.com) 01698 712647 or Alison: [alisonmuirhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonmuirhead@hotmail.co.uk) 07517169498

Love and Blessings from all of us.

## **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 calendar below; 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 pages 19 and 20 below. If possible, please join us before the scheduled hour.

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

- |    |        |  |
|----|--------|--|
| 4  | I & II | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Katherine Maley<br><i>H. 28, p.164-182 – “An Answering of Questions”</i>          |
| 11 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: June Young<br><i>“The Message and the Work”</i> [document]                         |
| 18 | I & II | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye<br><i>H. 31, p.66-74 – “Garments of the Sons of GOD”</i> [Pt. 1] |
| 25 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson<br><i>“Thought”</i> [document]                                    |

#### **OCTOBER**

- |   |        |  |
|---|--------|--|
| 2 | I & II | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Claire Ede<br><i>Herald 27, p. 85-95 – “The Queen of Sheba”</i> |
|---|--------|--|

- 9 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson  
*The Master*, p. 209- – “*The Marriage Festival*”
- 16 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
*H. 31*, p.75-82 – “*Garments of the Sons of GOD*” [Pt. 2]
- 23 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Sarah Palmer  
*Herald 13*, p. 201-211 – “*The Mystery of the Dove*”

## NOVEMBER

- 6 I & II Worship Service – Ministrant: Maya Hammarsal  
“*For the Love of the Creatures*” [document]
- 13 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Jan Holmes  
*Herald 20*, p.121-132 – “*A Song of Israel*”
- 20 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
*Herald 10*, p.111-125 – “*The Divine Law of Motion*”
- 27 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Jean Laverack  
*Minor Prophets*, p.165- – “*The Desire of All Souls*”

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 (page 30) according to whether your area is currently observing Standard or Daylight Savings Time.

For the months of May, June and July, all areas world-wide will be observing schedule A.

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 am 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>			

## **Spiritual Linking Christopher Nye**

**T**HE STUDY FOR SEPTEMBER IS

“The Garments of the Sons of God”

*Herald 31 Part 1 pages 66-74*

It will take place on Sunday 18th

“The Sons of GOD walk in the white of the redeemed;”

There will be two readings. **00h00 UTC (=GMT)** Saturday in North America, Sunday in Australia and New Zealand. 5pm PDT, 7pm CDT, 8pm EDT; 8am AWST, 9.30am ACST, 10am AEST; 12 noon NZST. **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 10am MDT, 11am CDT, 12 noon EDT in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing pages.*

**T**HE STUDY FOR OCTOBER IS

“The Garments of the Sons of God”

*Herald 31 Part 2 pages 75-82*

It will take place on Sunday 16th

“Would you be a Son of GOD?”

**T**HE READING FOR NOVEMBER IS

“The Divine Law of Motion”

*Herald 10, pages 111-125*

It will take place on Sunday 20th

“We are moving back, though it seems but very slowly”

There will be two readings. **00h00 UTC (=GMT)** Saturday in North America, Sunday in Australia and New Zealand. 4pm PST, 5pm MST, 6pm CST, 7pm EST, 8am AWST, 10.30am ACDT, 11am AEDT and 1pm NZDT. The second links Members in North America with those in the UK and Europe. **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** 4pm GMT in the UK, 8am PST, 9am MST, 10am CST and 11am EST in North America. *For phone-in numbers see Communal Sharing pages.*

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**The next issue of the Spiritual Reflections  
will be published at the beginning of December 2022.**

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### **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)

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