

Application Forms available from:  
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*Cost 2019*

*Weekend: \$230.00*

*6 Day Retreat: \$690.00*

*\$50.00 deposit confirms  
the booking*



*Remain in My love  
Praying with John 15:1-17*



St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre

*Presenter:  
Pauline Compton fdnsc*

18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

To abide in Jesus' love is to live in the closest relationship of mutual intimacy with Jesus, as Jesus lived in relationship with his Father. It is to be drawn into the same communion of love that was the source of Jesus' life.

John of the Cross gives expression to this mutual indwelling: "O most beautiful of creatures, transcendent spirit, who long to know where your beloved is and where you may find him so as to be united with him. He dwells within you. You are yourself the tabernacle, his secret hiding place. Rejoice, exult, for all you could possibly desire, all your heart's longing is so close, so intimate as to be within you; you cannot be without him. (Spiritual Canticle 1, 7).

Jesus calls us to so adhere and remain in him, that are never apart from him. Our relationship of closest intimacy with Jesus, moreover, is mirrored in that of Jesus with his Father. It is only by remaining in this intimate union of love, always turned to Jesus, living in and with him, that we are enabled to live with his very life.

During this retreat we will explore Jesus' intimate relationship of love with his Father and find therein, our own deep source life and love. We will know what it is to be friend and beloved. Drawn into deep mutual abiding in Jesus, which is to abide in the communion he shares with the Father, we will also be drawn to live of this very life of love.



"It is the divine communion which Jesus has with the Father that [John] wants to highlight. He wants to take us with him as he penetrates to the very core of Jesus' humanity – the mystery of Jesus' relationship with God, which John found expressed in everything Jesus said and did, and in everything Jesus continued to say and do in the community after his death and glorification" (Fallon, *The Gospel According to John: An Introductory Commentary*, 24).

In showing us the core of Jesus' humanity, we are shown what it means, for us, to be human.

"'Remain' is persistence in the life of faith; it is loyal steadfastness to the cause only in the sense of always allowing one oneself to be encompassed, of allowing oneself to receive. The loyalty that is demanded is not primarily a continued being *for*, but a being *from*; it is ... an allowing oneself to be held, corresponding to the relationship of the *branch* to the *vine*. In this sense, the relationship can be a reciprocal one: indeed, it *must* be" (Bultmann, *The Gospels*, 535-536).