



# *Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation



## SILOAM

2023 Program for the  
Formation of Spiritual Directors

Full-time: 1 Year (in-person)

Part-time: 2 Years (in-person & online)

***To enliven the divine spark in people's hearts  
through contemplative formation***

**The Siloam Program** for the Formation of Spiritual Directors mirrors the movement identified in John 9:7. It is with the opening of the eyes of our heart and of our whole being, that we are able to embrace a new 'vision', a new mission, and a new vocation in the ministry of Spiritual Direction.

We thirst to live our life authentically, we long for the freedom to choose to be our true self and to know wholeheartedly that the sacred Mystery is entwined in such desires. Like washing in the Pool of Siloam, the Siloam Program opens our eyes and supports our transformation, freeing us to let go of ways of being that are no longer life-giving.

The focus in Siloam is on being attuned to the Spirit of God in ourselves and in the other person. The practice is to offer a compassionate, contemplative, listening heart to another in the ancient tradition of Spiritual Direction. The direction we speak of is towards God and our true freedom.

In Spiritual Direction, the caring presence of another moves us to a freedom to speak about whatever is deep within our heart, and in doing so, be valued and encouraged. We all long to be listened to and validated.

Siloam, in practice and in its study components, is based on experiential learning. Our lived history, our relationship with the Holy, our place in family and community, our desires and vulnerability make us who we are.

### **Aim**

The Siloam Program is concerned with the formation of competent, experienced spiritual directors. The lecturers and supervisors at Heart of Life foster a discerning, contemplative approach whereby spiritual directors-in-formation become more and more attuned to the movement of God's Spirit in themselves and in their directees.

### **Pre-requisites**

Applicants are expected to have:

- experience in ministry
- an ability to reflect on their experience and ministry
- involvement in a faith community
- experience of ministry supervision: CPE, Spiritual Leaders, or equivalent
- experience of being in spiritual direction or a directed retreat
- basic study in theology, spirituality, scripture, psychology
- a psychological assessment
- level of English IELTS 5.5 General, with at least 5.0 in each of the four bands for Siloam; IELTS 6.5 Academic for the Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
- proof of Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency for those applying within Australia; overseas applicants must apply for a Temporary Activity Visa (Subclass 408) for Siloam, or a Student Visa (Subclass 500) for the Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
- personal interview, by arrangement.

In light of the above criteria, applicants must confirm their eligibility by completing the Personal Statement of Eligibility on the application form.

### **Siloam Program**

Siloam is recognised by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction as meeting its standards for the formation of spiritual directors in Australia.

Siloam's approach to formation is soundly experiential and is based on solid theological, biblical and social sciences theory and praxis. A discerning, contemplative attitude is integral to all seminars and practical work.

Regular reflection, prayer time and a commitment to one's own spiritual direction are essential to the program.

Siloam participants and staff form a faith community. The Orientation and the Reflection Weekends are held during the Siloam Program to pray as a community, to share faith and to reflect on ministry.

On successful completion of the Siloam Program, students receive a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Heart of Life.

### **Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction**

Students who meet the 'previous Degree' and other criteria, may undertake the Siloam Program as a *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction*. The content is the same as the Siloam Program. Enrolment is made through Yarra Theological Union (YTU) and on successful completion, the *Graduate Diploma* is awarded by the University of Divinity (UD) - see 2021 YTU Handbook.

Students applying to study the *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction* must provide YTU with the original or certified copies of relevant transcripts.

### **Content**

#### Seminar Work

Eight hours of seminar work is required weekly in the full-time program, and four hours weekly in the part-time program (Mondays, 8.45am-4.30pm). Core seminars include: Discernment, Religious Experience, Grace & Conversion, Spirituality of Human Life Stages A & B, Human Experience of God, Professional Standards in Ministry, and Ecological Spirituality.

#### Practical Work

- Spiritual direction of people who request this via the Centre or in one's local area.
- Regular individual supervision.
- Weekly group supervision of verbatim presentations, and two case studies.
- Weekly spiritual direction with peers

- working in triads and quads with supervision.
- Regular Tutorials and Communal Reflection.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is ongoing:

- mid-year and end-of-year evaluation of ministry in light of individual goals
- three 6,000 word assignments or equivalent per semester (full-time students) on seminar topics integrating theory and practice
- reflection papers, class presentations, verbatim reports of ministry
- ongoing and final assessment by supervisors.

### **2023 Fees**

*All fees in this brochure are given in Australian Dollars.* As the 2023 Fee schedule is not yet available, the 2022 Fees are provided below as a guide.

#### Siloam Program

The fee for students studying the Siloam Program only in 2022 is \$14,006. This fee is made up of \$11,556 for Tuition and \$2,450 for Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities. For Part-time students, the fees are split across two years, that is \$5,778 Tuition plus \$1,225 Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities fees, , ie total \$7,003, to be paid in each year.

If students do not have a psychological assessment, they will also need to take this test, which is payable by the student at approx. \$300. (Information on where to take this test will be provided.)

Students of the Siloam Program are also required to undertake regular personal spiritual direction, payable by the student at approx. \$70 per session or as negotiated.

Students applying outside of Australia should allow approx \$2,500 for the costs of health and travel insurance, visa application fees etc.

In summary, the approx. fees for Siloam are:

Heart of Life Tuition/Reflection Wknds	\$14,006
Psychological Assessment	approx \$300

Regular spiritual direction approx \$500  
Total: approx \$14,806

### Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction

Applicants wishing to study for the *Graduate Diploma* should add to the above, the following UD/YTU fees: \$4,836  
Total: approx \$19,642

Government FEE-HELP is available for tuition fees to qualifying Australian citizens. Please note however that FEE-HELP *does not* cover: the Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities fee of \$2,450, psychological testing of ~\$300, or spiritual direction costs of ~\$500.

For more information on FEE-HELP, see [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

To apply, applicants must select 'FEE-HELP' as their payment method when completing their course enrolment forms. Proof of Australian citizenship must be provided. After

processing, applicants will receive an email that enables them to apply for FEE-HELP through the online eCAF portal. Fees will continue to be charged to FEE-HELP unless the student advises YTU of a change to upfront fee payment.

### **Application Process**

Please complete the SILOAM application form at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) and include an autobiography following the guidelines provided.

### **Applications for the 2023 Siloam Program close on 15 October 2022.**

Please address applications to:

*Director  
Heart of Life  
Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC 3144  
Australia  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)*

### **SILOAM CALENDAR 2023 - dates to be confirmed**

<i>Orientation - Part-time Year 1 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>3-4 &amp; 6 February</i>
<i>Orientation - Part-time Year 2 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>6 February</i>
<i>Orientation Week - Full-time participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>6-10 February</i>
<i>Semester 1 (Term 1)</i>	<i>13 February-6 April</i>
<i>(Term 2)</i>	<i>24 April-23 June</i>
<i>Semester 2 (Term 3)</i>	<i>17 July-15 September</i>
<i>(Term 4)</i>	<i>2 October-11 November</i>
<i>Retreat Week - Full-time &amp; Yr2 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>11-15 September</i>
<i>End-of-Year Missioning of Graduates:</i>	<i>20 November</i>
<i>3 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Full-time participants):</i>	<i>28-30 Apr, 11-13 Aug, 17-19 Nov</i>
<i>2 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Part-time Yr 1 particip.):</i>	<i>12-14 May, 18-20 Aug</i>
<i>2 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Part-time Yr 2 particip.):</i>	<i>26-28 May, 17-19 Nov</i>
<i>(If Covid restrictions are in place, Reflection weekends are held via Zoom.)</i>	



### **Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation**

Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern Victoria 3144, Australia  
Tel: (+61 3) 9890 1101

Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)

Web: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

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