





## CATHOLIC OUTREACH I DELIGHT IN YOU 2005 RETREAT

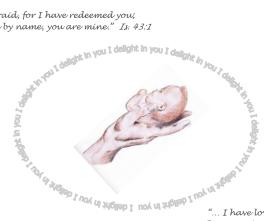
We were blessed with ideal weather and a superb view of the ocean for the Retreat which was held at the St John of God Retreat Centre at Shoalwater Bay.

Rev Dr Fr Walter Black, Seníor Consultant at the LJ Goody Bíoethícs Centre and keynote speaker on the first day presented participants with a very empowering and affirming discussion on what God says about God's self and what God says about you as a Christian person. The discussion explored the scriptures and the Church's teachings around the theme of the Retreat "I Delight in You". This was followed by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hickey who joined us for the delicious Retreat dinner.

"... Because you are precious in my eyes, Because you are honoured and I love you..." Is 43:4

"Yahweh called me before I was born, From my mother's womb he pronounced my name." Is.49:1

"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Is. 43:1



. I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you." Jer 31:3

"... but you should be called 'My Delight' ... for Yahweh takes delight in you ..." Is.62:4

> "... Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? ..." Is 49:15

On the second day a Bereavement workshop was presented by Betty Thompson (John Paul Care Willetton), Lesley Mc Minn (Morecare Bateman), Dorothy Johnston (Rosary Care Doublevíew) and Sr Ann Cullínane (Xavíer Care Armadale). The topics covered included Rituals, Preparing the Funeral, Moving on and Rituals for moving on. Each presenter also discussed how the bereaved were assisted in their parish.

We were also fortunate to have a logo specially designed and painted by Gerry Smith for the Retreat. He also composed a wonderful theme song as well as all of the music for the Retreat Mass.

The very positive feedback and comments received indicated that everyone had a "delightful" couple of days with good company in five star surroundings.

We're looking forward to the next one!













## Participants' comments

- Wonderful spirit, caring people, organization spot on, speakers brilliant. An inspiring spiritual experience.
- Very well organized. Excellent theme. Thoroughly enjoyed Fr Walter Black's talks very inspiring.
- Very many thanks. We have much to take back to our parish.
- I learned so much. Fr Black made me look at my relationship with God in such a different light.
- Very enjoyable. The meeting of others, the sharing of stories and the sharing of the wonderful meals and celebration of the Eucharist. Also the chance to go quietly by myself when I had the opportunity.
- It was very informative and well presented. I delighted in everything.
- Really well organized. Fr Walter Black was wonderful. The panel was most informative. Thank you.
- This was the first retreat that I've been to. I found it great. Fr Black was most interesting. I could sit through the 2 days again on the same topic.
- This retreat has been very informative. I have got a lot out of it. Everything
  has been just excellent.
- Excellent value, mentally and spiritually. I'm so pleased I was involved. Each and everyone seemed a beautiful person. "God bless you all".

## A Reflection on the Logo "I Delight in You"

There are three things that come to mind when I reflect on the Logo. First I notice the strong yet artistic hand that holds the baby gently and lovingly. This is the hand of God our Father and Creator. No one has seen God the Father (Jn 1:18) but humans perceive the work done by His hands, hence we have the hand of God.

The second is the incomplete infant. The baby is incomplete as it emerges from the palm of the hand. Is 49:16 comes to mind "I have carved you in the palm of my hand." It is a spirit child requiring a womb to form flesh and receive a body. "God is Spirit" (In 4:24) and what comes from God is spirit because He made us in His image and likeness, this is why He said "before I formed you in your mother's womb I knew you" Jer 1:5.

Finally an oval displaying the words "I delight in you" which represents a mother's womb. This spirit child is ready and independent, it tries to make it on its own; the spirit is willing and anxious. The head is slightly lifted, but the hand gently places it in a womb where it will receive flesh and body and be nurtured becoming a human foetus, and later develop into a baby. This is an act of love.

The repetition of the words 'I delight in you' has no end. This is because there is no end to God's love. The hand is placing the baby into a womb formed by the words I delight in you because He delights is us.

This takes us back to Genesis; it is creation all over again at every birth. God steps back, feasts His loving eyes upon us and delights in us. Is 62:4











