



## Good Samaritan Benedictine Values

The Good Samaritan Benedictine tradition is characterised by the values it embraces as being central to daily living. These foundational values are inspired by the ancient wisdom of the Rule of Benedict and go to the very heart of the Gospel message as exemplified in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. While some are commonly used terms, these values take on new vibrancy and depth when viewed through the Good Samaritan Benedictine lens.

### Love of Christ and Neighbour

- We greet everyone who comes our way as if they are Christ.
- We are called to live our lives this way each day, in every circumstance that prevails.
- Our actions need to reflect a way of being that shows our love for God in the way we love, respect and care for others.

### Stability

- Stability is not just about being, living or working in a particular physical space. It is about being truly present to others with a listening heart, wherever we are.
- It requires perseverance and persistence, and means not giving up on things or people when the going gets tough and times are difficult.
- Stability also requires a degree of flexibility. If we are prepared to persevere, then we grow in our capacity to manage change in our lives.

### Conversatio

- The Latin word 'Conversatio' involves living our lives so that we become fully human in the ordinariness of the day to day.
- Becoming the best of who we are only happens in relationship. We need to be patient with ourselves and with others as we grow towards fullness.
- Being changed, healed and transformed is a lifelong process. It requires trust, perseverance and love.

## Obedience

- Obedience is about listening.
- We listen to our hearts, to our God and to those who love us. Listening with the heart means we are truly present to others, and respond to them with love and compassion
- Only through mutual dialogue can we listen to each other and grow together.

## Balance

- Balance comes with perseverance and persistence. It helps us to live wisely and to nurture relationships of mutual respect.
- Through discipline, we strive to restore harmony, wholeness and balance in our lives.
- We can find ways to wholeness when we are able to find a balance in the competing demands of day to day life.

## Humility

- At the heart of humility is the idea that we cannot do everything on our own. No-one has all the answers.
- Everyone has gifts, and each one of us has different gifts to offer. We need to be able to recognise and rejoice in the giftedness of others.
- Humility is about knowing who I am before God.

## Stewardship

- Stewardship is the respectful engagement with people and everything we use, and a common sense approach to the use of finite natural resources.
- It is about our relationship with the earth, and our care, respect and reverence for all of creation.
- We have a responsibility to sustainability of resources and their just distribution for the good of all.

## Hospitality

- Whoever comes our way is to be welcomed as if they are Christ. Hospitality is about genuine acceptance and respect for others.
- To have a world that is tolerant and inclusive, we must welcome difference, welcome the stranger, and be non-judgemental.
- Hospitality recognises that guests always bring gifts, unique experiences and individual insights. We in turn need to be open to being changed by the gifts of others.

## Community

- We all need a place to belong, and we must ensure that there is a place for everyone – that all are included.
- Community means that it's 'not all about me'. It is more about looking outwards to make connections between the individual and the communal, the local and the global.
- In community, we must be ready to serve others, as well as letting others serve us.

## Justice and Peace

- Pax (peace) is the aim of Benedictine life.
- There can be no peace in the world unless there is justice for everyone, especially the vulnerable and the marginalised.
- We need to intentionally set about creating an environment which is arranged to achieve peace and justice for all.