

Out of the Depths: the Lament of the Soul.

An evening of lament for the indescribable pain and loss suffered by the wounds of child sexual abuse.

8pm – 9pm, Wednesday 23 May, 2018

Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth.

Supper to follow



Through the horrifying tragedy of child sexual abuse, many individuals, families and communities have lost something they can never regain. That which was so sacred to their identity has been wrenched from their life and now lies hopelessly and irretrievably lost. A gaping hole remains where once was life and laughter and hope. The breach of trust can never be mended or repaired to the way it was previously.

The pain of such loss is often so deep, it is unspeakable. There are no adequate words left that carry the meaning of what is being experienced. In a time such as this, the soul cries a deep lament for all that was lost, for what can no longer be.

A lament is a ritual which signals a truth, that even though the world outwardly marches on, an inner world has collapsed. A lament expresses the honesty of how we truly experience the horror, confusion, anger, rage, as well as grief, agony and relentless sadness that comes with abuse. A lament can carry the power of these emotions with compassion and strength without offering superficial answers. A lament helps us recognize the gift of being able to signify outwardly what we are grieving inwardly.

Like a balm for the wound, the evening will centre around the power of music to address, with compassion and empathy, the pain of our losses. A string quartet of members from the Fremantle Chamber Orchestra will offer a selection of evocative pieces from the classical masters of music. The pieces will be augmented by prayers and sacred poetry.

It is not an evening for many words, rather an entry, through the gift of music, into a safe place where we can touch the depth and breadth of our losses and know the cost of living this life with integrity in the face of suffering. It is an evening of being together, of sharing the grief and pain in a spirit of compassion for everyone living with these wounds and allowing God's grace to heal us in a way we could never do on our own.

This evening may prove helpful for anyone who has experienced traumatic loss in any way. Everyone is welcome. Address: 190 Vincent St, North Perth WA 6006. Please call John Hodgson CSsR on 0410 145 057 for further information.