

Geoffrey Nutting

Qualifications

Doctor of Ministry Studies (Melbourne) 2011
MA (musicology, Durham) 1961 DipTheol (Oxford) 1960
Certificates of two years' clinical training (*CPE*) in psychiatric chaplaincy (1988 and 1990), one advanced unit (2001)

Profile

Geoff is a mental health researcher and educator, and an Authorized Lay Minister in the Anglican diocese of Bendigo. From 1989-92 he was staff Chaplain of one of the old 'stand alone' psychiatric hospitals; and, from 2002-06, Volunteer Chaplain to a modern acute psychiatric inpatient unit. In between, he participated, presented and published extensively in community-based psychiatric care under church auspices. In an early academic career in musicology Geoff had lectured for five years in Nigeria, then for ten at Monash University.



Science/Faith interests

- Sciences (including theological sciences) of what it is to be human. Mind (and heart) over matter: the *placebo effect* as evidencing the inadequacy of an exclusively biochemical perspective
- The social construction of our sense of reality *versus* drives and vocation to embody such divine attributes as justice, truth, beauty, and loving-kindness
- Mystical experiences and their potential outcomes, with particular reference to the fourteenth century female mystic Julian of Norwich
- Secular notions of 'normality' and of 'therapy', *versus* understandings that we are creatures in the Divine Image, conditioned (individually and communally) by pervasive sinfulness
- 'Putting oneself in others' shoes': neuro-atypicality and Asperger syndrome
- In psychological assessment: the *influence of the observer* on what is observed; and, in would-be 'therapeutic relationships', the effects of temperamental compatibility – or the lack of it
- Communal prayer, spiritual direction, and solitude – as breathing spaces for grace and transformation along our spiritual journey.

Topics I can present on

Combinations of two or more of the above, *plus* the topic of my doctoral thesis: the *Enneagram* model in spiritual psychology as a key to how, as individuals and as communities, we may grow in open-ness to God and to each other.