

reference: friendship in Classical Antiquity (Plato to Cicero), in Christian Antiquity (the Gospel of John to Augustine), in the Middle

an extensive survey, not a single woman's voice is noted!

Greco-Roman literature lies in the background of almost all seri-

his or her friend as an alter ego, "another self", and seeks the wellbeing of that other, even to the point of dying for the friend.

*so that by right of friendship all that is His is shared with us and all that is ours is shared with Him. (p. 112)*

See a longer version of this review at [tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/film-and-book-reviews](http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/film-and-book-reviews)

## Timely collection of essays honours pioneer of pastoral care

*The Mystery of God and the Power of Redemptive Relationships: An Australian Contribution – Essays in Honour of Roy Bradley, edited by Stephen Ames and Eugen Koh (Morning Star Publishing, 2019)*

Roy's distillation of his understanding of pastoral care is the essence of this book: "... the mystery of God and the power

chiatrist, a parish priest, a lecturer in theology and the director of a Palliative Care Unit, with evidence of their research and pastoral

reviewed by **Stuart Blackler**

THE IMPORTANCE of Roy Bradley in some 50 years of pastoral ministry in Australia is incalculable. As a parish priest, hospital chaplain, warden of the Avalon Community, which was founded by the Revd Vernon Cohen in 1967 at Lara as a place for those seeking refreshment and healing, and a major figure in the introduction and development of Clinical Pastoral Education in Australia – and through his gentle strength, genuine holiness, and affirming acceptance of others – Roy brought a deep vision of what is at the heart of ministry.

The genesis of this book was shortly after Roy's 90th birthday, and he was involved in the choice of essayists. The first essay under the title of this book was written by Roy himself and completed before his sudden and deeply saddening death on 26 August, 2017.

**"Pastoral care changed from having a largely religious focus, with emphasis on the sacraments, to care that begins with an individual's search for meaning and the transcendental ..."**

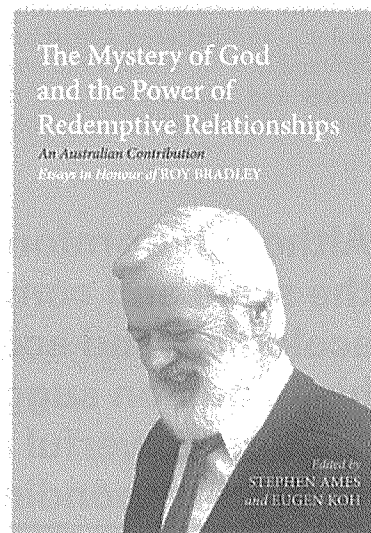
of redemptive relationships". The editors contextualise this when they write: "Pastoral care changed from having a largely religious focus, with emphasis on the sacraments, to care that begins with an individual's search for meaning and the transcendental, and is based on broader notions of spirituality, and is increasingly informed by various currents of psychology."

In addition to Roy Bradley's essay, this book has contributions from eight others, including a psy-

chiatrist, a parish priest, a lecturer in theology and the director of a Palliative Care Unit, with evidence of their research and pastoral

encounters, exploring the central thesis of the Bradley approach to pastoral ministry. In his commendation, Archbishop Philip Freier has acknowledged that the contributors have "taken their explorations into the new areas of theological and pastoral reflection".

This book has a timely relevance. For understandable reasons, an emphasis on the structural, the organisational, and the consequences of compliance often seems



to have relegated the people focus of pastoral ministry from the central concerns. For centuries, as the Book of Common Prayer and Ordinal exemplify, the parish priest was known as the *curate* – the carer. One contributor describes the "redemptive relationship" as "empathetic attachment".

In one of the discussions between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, recorded in *The Book of Joy*, Archbishop Tutu says to the readers: "God wants you to

be filled with joy and excitement and even longing to be able to find what is so beautiful in God's creation: the compassion of so many, the caring, the sharing." This is Roy's message, too, in leading others to see "the mystery of God and the power of redemptive relationships", and those who knew him well remember the enthusiasm for others, the presence of God, and his compassion and his joy.

This book, and the Centre for Spirituality of Care and Community founded to commemorate Roy and his work, are worthy of him and a means for us as individuals and the Church at large to be reimagined, not as judgmental but as compassionate; as focused not on institutionalism but on people.

Dr Stuart Blackler is Dean Emeritus of Hobart. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Melbourne in 1967.

For more information about the Centre for Spirituality of Care and Community, visit [www.csc.org.au](http://www.csc.org.au).

To order a copy of this book, email [csc.org@gmail.com](mailto:csc.org@gmail.com). Books are \$30 per copy including postage.

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