



Guiding thoughts for a Coracle like meeting

Charism and feel, logistics and practice

Coracle offers spaces of hospitality (physical and spiritual) for pilgrims to share stories and compare discoveries, and to support the learning and exploration of faith through its many life transitions. But at a practical level how does this



A need for inns on roads, islands in seas,
Halts for discoveries to be shared,
Maps checked, notes compared;
From ASJ Tessimond's Not love perhaps

CHARISM & FEEL

Nurture the 'right' conversation



- ~ With God and self, principally
- ~ Through a blend of personal silent reflection and group sharing
- ~ Attend to internal movements
- ~ Consider exploratory questions

LOGISTICS & PRACTICE

In advance:



- ~ Choose and distribute by email stimulating and relevant material
- ~ Use the Coracle website's downloadable topic brochure (for ideas) and/or pre-prepared topic sheets, as needed

On the night:

Physical hospitality:

- ~ Share a communal meal preferably in a home (1.5 hours)

Spiritual hospitality:

- ~ Initial stilling and welcome—Receive what needs to be heard (no discussion, 15 mins)
- ~ Introduce the topic and author, distributed material and additional handouts. Silent personal reflection (25 mins)
- ~ Group discussion on discoveries and reflections (30 mins)
- ~ Wrap up: Blessing, thank hosts,, next date (5 mins)

- In our gatherings we desire to enable the right conversations to be had with the right person, which is invariably with God or self. This is not a debating chamber per se. We don't want to stay in our heads or set things up so that the principal exchange is between the one who delivers a talk, argument or proposal and those gathered. It should be more than an I agree/disagree exchange.

- We attempt to attend to and learn from the movement we sense within us, to be attentive to questions such as What is useful, from what I have heard and feel? What challenges me? What resonates? And why do I think this might be?

- A topic is chosen and concise reading material researched and gathered, within the rough framework of faith development as pertains to life transitions and maturation. An email is sent around the group with scanned reading attached plus a quote and /or image related to the topic.

- A 'soft' start is intended to accommodate late workers and family commitments. In coming to order after eating we begin with offering a space to tell what has happened since last we met. This is a linear, non-interrupted space. Freedom to speak without 'fear' of interruption is given and content received. Alternatively a prayer bowl will be pinged to start and then end a period of stilling during which scripture, appropriate to the topic of the meeting, may be read.

- The readings are then handed round and the topic briefly introduced. Some may see this material for the first time. For others this is a chance for further, deeper reading. The original reading may provide the background to the topic and other resources take centre stage eg audio, video or handouts comprising poems and art. Mixing media helps give different entry points for inner conversation.