Spirituality and dementia – some suggested resources

We are increasingly aware of the economic and emotional cost of dementia, but its spiritual dimension is often overlooked. Between Remembering and Forgetting brings together contributions from distinguished and experienced practitioners in the front line of dementia research and care to reflect on this, and to explore the implications for Churches and other faith groups, as well as for individual carers.

Dementia: living in the memories of God / John Swinton (2012)
In this book John Swinton develops a practical theology of dementia for caregivers, people with dementia, ministers, hospital chaplains, and medical practitioners as he explores two primary questions: •Who am I when I've forgotten who I am? •What does it mean to love God and be loved by God when I have forgotten who God is? Offering compassionate and carefully considered theological and pastoral responses to dementia and forgetfulness, Swinton's Dementia: Living in the Memories of God redefines dementia in light of the transformative counter story that is the gospel.

Dementia: pathways to hope: spiritual insights and practical advice / Louise Morse (2015)
"Secular models of support don't adequately reflect Christian values of compassion, love and service," explains Louise Morse. "Neither do they describe the power of spiritual support. This is key to the wellbeing of the caregiver, as well as the person with dementia." This book is packed with examples of what works, as well as practical advice and accessible medical information. Louise Morse is a cognitive behavioural therapist and works with a national charity whose clients include people with dementia.

Spirituality and personhood in dementia / Albert Jewell (2011)
This comprehensive and thought-provoking collection includes contributions from international authors, discussion of inter-faith relations and spirituality for the non-religious, as well as chapters approaching the subject from Christian and Buddhist perspectives. This book will be valuable reading for nurses, care workers, care commissioners and pastoral support professionals interested in a more holistic and contemplative approach to caring for older people with dementia.

DVD - Spirituality in dementia care / with Teepa Snow and Rev. Linn Possell (2016)
Learn with dementia expert Teepa Snow and Reverend Linn Possell about basic spiritual needs throughout life, what may or may not change when someone is living with dementia and how to best meet those needs.
Personal accounts

**Dancing with dementia: my story of living positively with dementia / Christine Bryden (2005)**
Christine Bryden was a top public servant and single mother of three children when she was diagnosed with dementia at the age of 46. In this book Christine argues for greater empowerment and respect for people with dementia as individuals, she also reflects on the importance of spirituality in her life and how it has helped her better understand who she is and who she is becoming.

Given Hob and Olivia Hoblitzelle's rich background in psychology, Buddhist meditation and the wisdom traditions, they were in a unique position to help others by sharing how they negotiated this heart-breaking illness. This memoir is the fruit of their shared experience. Olivia not only writes about the inspirations and spiritual perspectives that sustained them, but gives us an intimate account of how they faced loss, crisis, and eventually death.

**Where two worlds touch: a spiritual journey through Alzheimer's disease / Jade Angelica (2014)**
Jade Angelica shares the wisdom and hope she gleaned from caring for her mother and from many years working closely with Alzheimer's patients and caregivers. Where Two Worlds Touch is both a spiritual memoir and a pastoral guide for those who love someone with Alzheimer's. Readers will find here the reassuring words of a friend who has been there and can give advice on preserving connection, finding hope, self-care, and staying open to the possibility of grace.

Reminiscing

**Facilitating Spiritual Reminiscence for People with Dementia: A Learning Guide / By Elizabeth MacKinlay and Corinne Trevitt (2015)**
Spiritual reminiscence is a way of communicating that acknowledges the person as a spiritual being and seeks to engage the person in a more meaningful and personal way.

Ministering

**Guide to ministering to Alzheimer's patients and their families / Otwell, Patricia Anne (ed) (c2007)**
This book is designed for all who desire to minister to those affected by Alzheimer's - especially pastors, priests, chaplains, pastoral counselors, church leaders, healthcare professionals, and seminary students.
In a strange land...: people with dementia and the local church: a guide and encouragement for ministry / Malcolm Goldsmith (2004)
How do clergy and lay leaders, members of the congregation and others understand, relate to and support these people living with dementia? This book, written by someone who has spent many years as a parish priest is full of reflections and suggestions. It is an attempt to guide and encourage people in this important but often neglected area of ministry.

Ministering to people living with dementia: a pastoral guide (2008)
Ministering to People with Dementia: A Pastoral Guide, produced by Catholic Health Australia in cooperation with Alzheimer's Australia is a practical handbook for the spiritual care of people with dementia. The Guide has been written expressly for those working in parish settings to assist in the provision of spiritual care of parishioners with dementia both at home and in residential care within the local community.

Dementia resources blog dementiaresources.org.au
Library catalogue dementialibrary.org.au

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