The 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9 July 2023

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church Founded 1886

Acknowledgement of Country. As a community, we recognise that the church is built and our worship is offered on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people, and close to Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square), which is still an important meeting place for the Kaurna people today. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land; our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing; and our hope that we may walk together in harmony, in the spirit of Reconciliation.

A ministry of prayer for healing and wholeness will be offered in the Holy Innocents Chapel during the Communion of the People. If you would like to make a note of prayer points or special intentions for prayer, please use the card which is available at the rear of the church.



O God, your constant care and love are shed upon us from above, throughout our lives in every stage, from infancy to later age.

- 2 We thank you, Lord, for dreams of youth, for wisdom leading on to truth, for memories gathered through the years, and faith that grows from joys and tears.
- 3 All time is yours, O Lord, to give. May we, in all the years we live, find that each day of life is new, a celebration, Lord, with you.
- 4 Let not the passing of the years rob us of joy or cause us fears, and may our faith, O Lord, hold true, that we may always rest in you.

Entrance Antiphon

The choir sings

Your merciful love, O Lord, we ponder in your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Invocation and Greeting

✤ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

H. Glen Lanier 1925-78 Ps. 48.9-10

Penitential Act

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Silence. Then all say

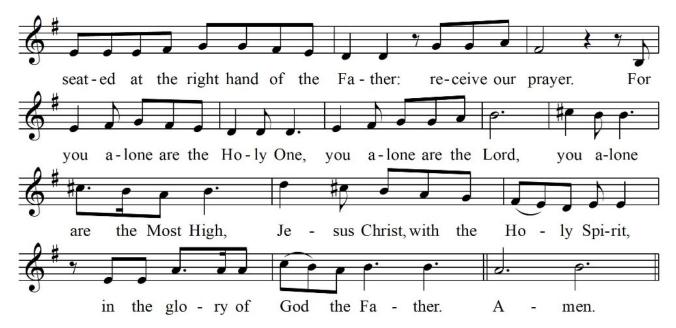
Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest says:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon ♥ you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise





Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us; yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham's servant said to Laban:

"I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

Rebekah's brother and mother called her and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they called Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

- R Grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.
- 11 Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear: forget your own people and your father's house.
- 12 So will the king desire your beauty.He is your lord, pay homage to him. R
- 13 And the daughter of Tyre shall come with gifts; the richest of the people shall seek your favour.
- 14 The daughter of the king is clothed with splendour; her robes are threaded with gold. $\mathbf{\tilde{R}}$
- 15 In fine clothing she is led to the king;behind her are her maiden companions, brought to you.
- 16 They are escorted with gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. $\mathbf{\tilde{R}}$
- 17 Children will be yours in succession; you shall make them rulers over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name forever remembered. Thus the peoples will praise you from age to age. \mathbb{R}

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 7.15-25a

Psalm 45.10-17

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11.16–19, 25–30

Cf. Matthew 11.25

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

🛚 Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the crowds:

"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

All stand.

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. Fr Steven Ogden

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life for the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The priest may say

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

The prayers may conclude

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **God's Spirit is with us.**

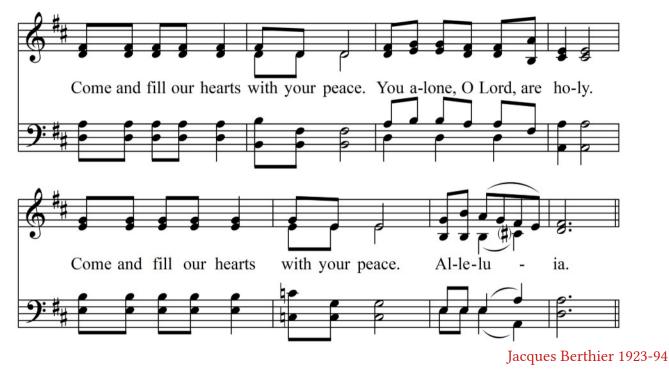
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Antiphon

The choir sings

O Lord, you save a lowly people, but bring low the eyes that are proud. For who is God, but the Lord? Who is a rock, but our God?

All stand to sing the chant, during which a Collection will be taken up.



When all is prepared, the priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

May the Lord accept our sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

God of heaven and earth, receive our sacrifice of praise, and strengthen us for the perfect freedom of your service, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

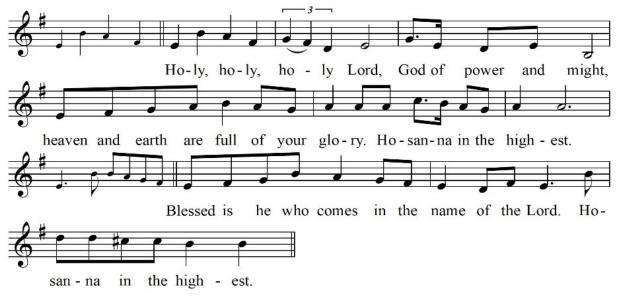
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:



Blessed are you, gracious God,

creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honour your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Saviour Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

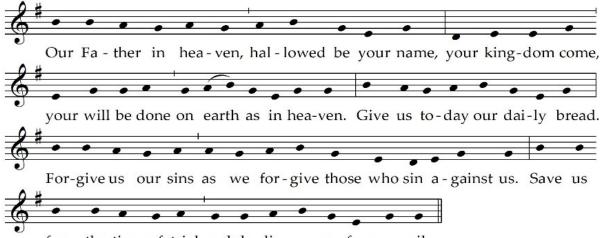
Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary Magdalene and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honour, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

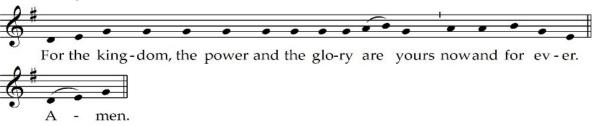
The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are confident to pray:



from the time of trial and de-liv-er us from e-vil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



The Breaking of the Bread

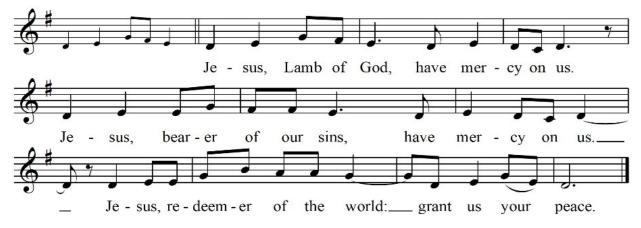
The priest breaks the bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung.



Invitation to Communion

The priest says

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

All receive Holy Communion, or a blessing, as they prefer. Please approach in single file, returning via the side aisles.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Healing ministry will be offered in the Holy Innocents chapel. Please enter the chapel one at a time. You may wish to record prayer points or remembrances on a piece of paper prior to Mass.

During Communion, the choir sings.

Communion Antiphon

The choir sings

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who seek refuge in God.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

O God,

may we who have shared in holy things

never fail to serve you in your world,

and so come to the fullness of joy,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 34.9



I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon my breast:' I came to Jesus as I was, Weary, and worn, and sad; I found in him a resting place, And he has made me glad. 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give The living water, thirsty one; Stoop down, and drink, and live:' I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream; My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in him. 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's Light; Look unto me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy day be bright:' I looked to Jesus, and I found In him my Star, my Sun; And in that light of life I'll walk Till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar 1808-89

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, 承 and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The priest, deacon or another minister says,

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING TODAY: Values, theology, and engagement

In the second half of 2022, we held two Special Vestry Meetings at which we considered some options and opportunities for ministry this year. The suggestion that such meetings be held two or three times a year was well received, so in consultation with Parish Council it has been agreed that our next special vestry meeting will be held today after Mass. The meeting will be relatively informal, allowing us time to discuss matters of interest.

The last twelve months have been busy. So, it seems a good time to pause, and do some reflection. It is good to do this every so often, and you may well have done something like this before. However, this time it will be a little different.

Before addressing issues like vision, priorities, and strategies, it is good to ask "what do we believe in passionately?" By this, I mean, what do we value the most? What do we feel deeply about? What do we cherish? What would you like to see included in the ethos and future practice of our parish? The emphasis at this point is on sharing and listening in order to identify key values. The details will come later.

After the special vestry, I will gather your insights, and produce a draft discussion paper on "the theology of the parish of St Mary Magdalene" for distribution and further discussion. Be assured, the process will be enjoyable, and productive. In many ways, it will be like the feast of Pentecost. That is, a celebration of diversity, where there was hearing and understanding.

JULY SERMON SERIES: "The human one: On hope and the practice of love"

What is our ground for hope? It is the practice of love. By love, I am talking about something powerful yet gentle, inclusive, and generous. This love builds community and works for justice in the world. The five reflections are:

- 2 July Welcoming the marginal
- 9 July Queering the church
- 16 July Subverting ageism
- 23 July Mary Magdalene, feminist
- 30 July Irrepressible hope

I began last week by putting Jesus and his friends, like Mary Magdalene, in context. Forget about Jesus meek and mild, instead, this is Jesus the human one. The term "the human one" (previously translated "the Son of Man") is the term Jesus preferred to use to describe himself and his work. The human one, with his friends from Galilee, represented a resistance movement inspired by love. By "resistance movement", I am referring to the capacity to make a stand against injustice and exclusion. This helps explain why the Romans crucified Jesus, because his talk of love, inclusion, and justice threatened the *Pax Romana* (Roman peace).

Today the title of my reflection is "Queering the Church."

Our parish's commitment to social inclusion is heartfelt and longstanding. One of the key ingredients is not only our commitment to welcoming the stranger, but also our recognition that the outsider has a prophetic perspective we need to hear. Happily, many other churches are inclusive communities, and I think this the case for three reasons.

First, compassion, we have seen others suffer because they were treated as outsiders based on their sexuality, gender, race, or disability. This includes family members, friends, and neighbours, as well as strangers. But compassion says, "this is not on". Second, in the Jewish and Christian traditions there is a deep commitment to welcoming the stranger in the name of divine love. Third, Jesus, the human one, and his friends from Galilee, embraced the outsider. All told, this includes a healthy dose of compassion, self-examination, and truth-telling. And this process is what I mean by the term 'queering the church'.

Historically, the term 'queer' was used in a derogatory manner. Of late, however, it has been adopted and adapted by many members of the LGBTQIA+ community to capture their unique perspective. In particular, the term queer "acquires its meaning from its oppositional relation to the norm" (David M. Halperin). For centuries, others defined the norm, designating LGBTQIA+ members directly, or by default, as abnormal. All this raises primary questions like what is the norm? Who decides? And what makes these decisions right? In the case of a contemporary church, these questions need to be addressed and challenged.

Personally, I have benefited greatly from queer friends and family members, within and without the church, as well as queer philosophers like Judith Butler and Michel Foucault, and theologians like Carter Heyward and Mark D Jordan. In today's sermon, then, I will explore this tradition.

In this context, I am using the term 'queering' broadly to include the wisdom of outsiders. And there are many outsiders. In Australia, for example, we just celebrated the remarkable contribution of Aboriginal and Islander people (NAIDOC Week). Of course, dispossession made first nations people outsiders in their own land, but this has only added to the gravitas of First Nations wisdom. Thank God, then, we are looking to them now for new wisdom.

Fr Steven

THE CONVERSATION - DISCUSSION GROUP

As social beings, we need to belong. And to belong, we need welcoming spaces to be ourselves, ask the big questions, and glean new wisdom for living compassionately and courageously. This is the impetus behind *The Conversation*.

So, following the success of our recent Thursday morning discussion group, we have come up with a new version called *The Conversation*. It began last **Thursday 6 July at 10 am and will run for 5** weeks finishing Thursday 3 August. The venue is the Mission Hall.

Each session will be led by a volunteer, who will present a ten-minute overview on a selected topic as a discussion starter. It promises to be a very interesting time.

So, welcome to The Conversation.

Fr Steven

COMING UP - CELEBRATING ST MARY MAGDALENE IN 2023

The Feast of St Mary Magdalene falls each year on 22 July. This year there will be two major events associated with the celebration of our patron.

On **Saturday 22 July** the Parish will provide the meal at the weekly **Mary Mags Dinner**. We decided some time ago that the dinner would be a "Christmas in July" themed dinner, with roasts, puddings, and even some Christmas crackers! We have the catering in hand, and enough volunteers to both cook the food and assist on the night, but would appreciate gifts of cash. Please see Heather Carter after Mass.

On **Sunday 23 July the 10 am Mass** will be of St Mary Magdalene. There will be a procession and there are plans for special music on the day, as well as a slap-up morning tea!

Rosters - are you interested?

There are many opportunities for service—ministries, in every sense—that make a parish tick. There are some very visible ministries – those who lead and assist in Sunday and weekday worship, for example, and those who preside over hospitality in the hall after Mass. But there are the less visible things as well. Finance and book-keeping, maintenance, cleaning (and maintaining supplies of cleaning products), and so on.

We are blessed in our community that we have no shortage of volunteers to undertake most of the tasks that need attention, but there is always room for more.

- In worship lay assistants, readers, intercessors, musicians
- In hospitality assisting with morning tea after Mass; organisation and delivery of occasional special events
- During the week finance and book-keeping, assisting with planned and emergency maintenance (especially the ability to drop in to the church or hall to assist with entry of trades during the week), cleaning both the church and the grounds.

And more! If you have an interest, or would like more information, please speak to either of the Churchwardens or to Fr Steven.

SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

Thursday 12 noon Angelus; 12.10 pm Mass (traditional rite)

Sunday 10 am Sung Mass with children's ministry and choir

Mass is offered at St Peter's Cathedral from Monday to Friday at 7.30 am, and on Wednesday at 10 am. Inquiries about Baptisms and Weddings to Fr Steven Ogden.

Confessions or confidential personal time with a priest are always available on request.

Regular Giving and Donations

Financial support for our mission and ministry through electronic funds transfer (EFT) is an efficient way of making regular contributions to your congregation. Regular giving helps us plan for the future and ensures you continue offering support when you can't make it to Church.

Our Details: Bank: Bankwest • BSB 305 122 • account no 0324654 • Reference: Your name

The Magdalene Centre

82 Gilbert Street, Adelaide Tel (08) 8305 9389

Non-perishable food for those in need can be left in the baskets at the back of the church or delivered to the Magdalene Centre from 12 noon to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.

Donations of cash are welcome via <u>https://anglicaresa.com.au/cause/magdalene-centre/</u>.

The Collective of St Mary Magdalene (Mary Mags Dinner)

Pray for all those who receive the Collective's weekly support, and who are seeking meals and companionship at other times during the week.

Directory

Parish Priest: The Revd Dr Steven Ogden

Fr Steven's appointment is part-time. His days on duty are Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday.

Office Email: StMMAdelaide.Parish@outlook.com • Web: stmarymagdalenes.weebly.com • Blog: stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org • Facebook: St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church

Next Sunday, 16 July, at 10 am – The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 25.19-34 • Psalm 119.105-112 • Romans 8.1-11 • Matthew 13.1-23

For Your Prayers

Pray for responsible leadership among the nations as the COVID-19 pandemic continues; pray for an end to violence and oppression; pray for peace and justice, especially for refugees, asylum seekers, and those seeking places of safety and security.

Pray for all those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Sim, Jasmin, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Edward, Neil, Hugh, James, Bart O'Donovan (priest) and Prue O'Donovan (Priest).

Pray for those who have died: those who have worked and worshipped in this place before us; those who have died recently, especially Bev Mitchell and Anne-Marie McCann, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. † *Rest eternal grant unto them*, *O Lord*, *and let light perpetual shine upon them*.