

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church

Moore Street, Adelaide



An open, welcoming and inclusive community
in the heart of the City of Adelaide

Keeping Community Spiritual Resources & Reflections

Thursday 7 July 2022

Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions makes it possible to offer the church for private prayer and public worship. Sunday Mass is sung at 10 am; and on Thursday, the Angelus is said at noon followed by Mass at 12.10 pm.

The decision to return to worship in community, whether for private prayer, or the public celebration of the Word and Sacraments, is not a straightforward matter. These newsletters are intended to keep our entire community informed on events in the life of the Parish, so we will continue to produce these news bulletins for now.



1. From Fr Steven – Appreciation

Thanks to everyone who made the Commissioning such a great success. Anne and I had a wonderful time. It was good for the soul. Throughout all this, our wardens Alison and Peter, and Sr Juliana, have been so supportive.

It was also great to have the presence of our Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor and the Revd Professor Paul Babie, as well as Bishop Denise, Archdeacon David Bassett, Area Dean Jenny Wilson, and Registrar Joe Thorpe. Bishop Denise has been very supportive of our parish.

We are grateful to Peter Burdon for helping to make the service such a success. His care and attentiveness made for a great event. Behind the scenes, Catherine Freriks has been baking, cooking, and organizing. On the night, her kitchen team were brilliant.

Under the leadership of Chris Bright, our choir were superb. We also had visitors from the Cathedral in the form of David Heah as guest organist, and Les Milner as guest thurifer.

It was a delightful commissioning. So, thanks to everyone for your support and prayers. The service, the music, the singing, and refreshments were wonderful. I know many other people were working behind the scenes. I am grateful. I am also excited about our future together.

So, on Sunday 14 August, we will be having a **Special Vestry Meeting** to reflect on our legacy and our aspirations. Moreover, the purpose is not necessarily about looking for short-term solutions, but instead, it is about beginning a long-term process of mutual engagement. It is the start of a series of conversations about where we have come from and where we are going. In due course, new ideas and possibilities will emerge. Often, great ideas come from left field when we least expect it.

In practical terms, as priest in charge, I will be working 0.6 time. I would encourage all of you to ring or email as needed. So, then, my official **workdays** are Tuesday to Thursday and the weekends. My days off are Monday and Friday. On my days off, I check my messages several times for any pastoral matters.

This week I am in Sydney for a conference. Many thanks to Fr Philip for celebrating Sunday's Mass, and to Fr Graeme who is saying the Thursday Mass this week. I am grateful for their support.

Every blessing

Fr Steven

2. COVID-19 Update from Tuesday 24 May

The Declaration that enabled COVID-19 related directions to be made was revoked on Tuesday 24 May, but there are still some restrictions on public activities associated with the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-Safe Plans are no longer required, though everyone is encouraged to follow SA Health guidance about infection control and community safety, especially if there is a risk of over-crowding.

It is worth remembering the advice of the Australian Medical Association that a face masks continue to be an effective way of minimising the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, especially in crowded or indoor settings, and anyone who wishes to continue to wear a face mask is at liberty to do so. We will continue to make face masks available, along with the other hygienic measures that have been in place for much of the past two years.

3. Daily Prayer

Most Christian denominations have forms for prayer in the morning and the evening, and at other times of the day. Morning and Evening Prayer in the Anglican church's *A Prayer Book for Australia*, are available in either a fixed form (pages 3 – 33) or a different form for each day of the week (pages 383 – 424).

Online Resources

There is a complete online version of Daily Prayer from *A Prayer Book for Australia* for each day available at Australian Daily Prayer <https://dailyprayer.ampers.x10.mx/>. There is also a free app for mobile devices from the App Store or Google Play.

The Church of England provides an online version of its orders for Daily Prayer at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. This is also available as a free app. The Divine Office of the Catholic Church is available online at www.ibreviary.com and is also available as a free app (App Store or Google Play).

Times of Prayer

Many people find it helpful to make a particular time daily for prayer and reflection. One option might be to join your prayer with those of the wider world at some special times during the day. While the church cannot be open every day, you may like to join the wider community in praying the Angelus at 9 am, 12 noon and 6 pm.

4. Reflections and Meditations

In addition to Fr Steven's regular reflection in this newsletter, which is uploaded to the web page for wider accessibility, Fr Philip Carter's meditations and spiritual reflections are presented on our blog, <https://stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org/>.

To access these meditations, simply go to the blog and select the "Spirit matters" tab on the top. If you would like to receive an email update when there is a new posting on the blog, whether for a Sunday or weekday service, or for meditations and other supports for prayer, please subscribe to the blog using the box on the right-hand side of the page.

Service booklets as PDF files are still available for Sunday and weekday services on the web site and on the Parish's Facebook page.

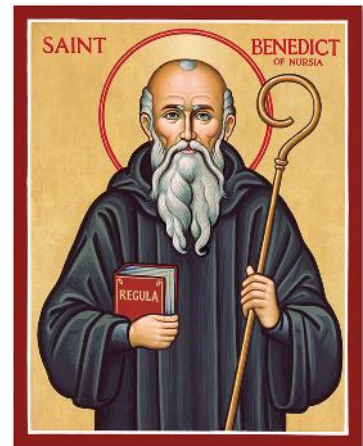
5. This Week in the Calendar

This week we celebrate the so-called "Father of Western Monasticism" St Benedict of Nursia, and the Australian Sydney James Kirkby, pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Church Aid Society.

It is unfortunate that no contemporary biography was written of a man who has exercised the greatest influence on monasticism in the West. Benedict is well recognized in the later Dialogues of Saint Gregory, but these are sketches to illustrate miraculous elements of his career.

Benedict was born into a distinguished family in central Italy, studied at Rome, and early in life was drawn to monasticism.

At first he became a hermit, leaving a depressing world—pagan armies on the march, the Church torn by schism, people suffering from war, morality at a low ebb.



He soon realized that he could not live a hidden life in a small town any better than in a large city, so he withdrew to a cave high in the mountains for three years. Some monks chose Benedict as their leader for a while, but found his strictness not to their taste. Still the shift from hermit to community life had begun for him. He had an idea of gathering various families of monks into one "Grand Monastery" to give them the benefit of unity, fraternity, and permanent worship in one house. Finally he began to build what was to become one of the most famous monasteries in the world—Monte Cassino, commanding three narrow valleys running toward the mountains north of Naples.

The Rule that gradually developed prescribed a life of liturgical prayer, study, manual labor, and living together in community under a common abbot. Benedictine asceticism is known for its moderation, and Benedictine charity has always shown concern for the people in the surrounding countryside. In the course of the Middle Ages, all monasticism in the West was gradually brought under the Rule of St. Benedict.

Today the Benedictine family is represented by two branches: the Benedictine Federation encompassing the men and women of the Order of St. Benedict; and the Cistercians, men and women of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance.

Reflection

The Church has been blessed through Benedictine devotion to the liturgy, not only in its actual celebration with rich and proper ceremony in the great abbeys, but also through the scholarly

studies of many of its members. Liturgy is sometimes confused with guitars or choirs, Latin or Bach. We should be grateful to those who both preserve and adapt the genuine tradition of worship in the Church.

Sydney James Kirkby (1879-1935), was born at Sandhurst (Bendigo), Victoria, and studied for the priesthood at Moore Theological College, Sydney, before returning to Bendigo where he ministered for some years.

A firm Evangelical, Kirkby had a keen interest in promoting his school of churchmanship through the activities of the Anglican Church League and similar agencies, but he also perceived that the Evangelicals had a part to play in specialized missions to the outback.

The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania was formed in Sydney in 1920 with promised support from the Colonial and Continental Church Society in England, and Kirkby became its executive officer, or Organising Minister, and was to play a pivotal role in its expansion nation-wide.



A man of plain habits and considerable physical strength, Kirkby 'carried his swag' and underwent much hardship on his outback tours. While thus conforming to the bush image, he knew that only good organization and the use of modern technology could make the mission effective. Missioners were trained in Sydney and Melbourne and nurses recruited; bush nursing sisters were organized in 1922 and bush deaconesses in 1925; hospitals and hostels were opened in the far west of New South Wales and in South Australia and mission vans pressed into service; and an 'aeroplane mission' began in 1928. From his base in Sydney, Kirkby conducted a steady publicity campaign, editing the society's journal, *Real Australian*, and writing in 1930 a vivid account of its work, *These Ten Years*.

In 1932 Kirkby was recalled to diocesan affairs. He was appointed part time Archdeacon while also ministering at the busy city church of St Philip, which he retained when appointed an assistant bishop later in the year. He was consecrated in August 1932, but found himself in charge of the Diocese when Archbishop Wright died the following February. Although nominated against his wishes for election as Archbishop, he avoided serious candidature and steered the election synod through an exhausting and fractious session. His dedication both to his diocesan work and to his parish ministry caused his health to break down, and he died in 1935.

6. On St Benedict: From a homily by Blessed Guerric of Igny

Through his faith and gentleness the Lord sanctified him. These words were written of Moses, but they may today be applied not unfittingly, I think, to blessed Benedict. For since he was filled with the Spirit of all the saints, it is reasonable to believe that he had not a little of Moses' spirit. If the Lord took some of the spirit of Moses and put it upon the whole group of elders who assisted him and were chosen to share his ministry, how much more must he have put that spirit on a man who more truly and more spiritually carried out every ministry in its fullness? Moses led those who came forth from Egypt; Benedict was leader of those who forsook the world. Moses was a legislator: so was Benedict. Moses was minister only of the letter that kills; Benedict was minister of the spirit that gives life. Moses wrote much that is

difficult to understand and inapplicable today or impossible to put into practice; Benedict is the author of a very sound rule of life that is clearly written and remarkable for its discretion. Finally, the leader of the children of Israel did not bring into the promised rest those he had led out of Egypt. Our leader, as the standard bearer of an army of monks, has gone before us by the straight way, the way stretching east, into the kingdom of heaven. It is therefore not unreasonable to think that he equaled in merit one whom he actually surpassed in ministry. Nor does it seem unfitting to apply to him what scripture says of Moses: Though his faith and gentleness the Lord sanctified him, especially since Benedict, who lived what he taught, teaches us those two virtues in particular.

Brethren, (Or brothers and sisters) it is the command of our gentle and peace-making Master that we should be at peace with one another. Yet before that he says: Have salt in yourselves. He knows well that peaceful gentleness nourishes vices unless the severity of zeal has first sprinkled them with the sharp taste of salt, just as mild weather causes meat to grow wormy unless the heat of salt has dried it out. Therefore be at peace with one another, but let it be a peace that is seasoned with the salt of wisdom; try to acquire gentleness, but let it be a gentleness filled with the warmth of faith.

7. Intentions for Your Daily Prayers

We pray throughout the week for the world and the church. These intentions may be helpful in your private or family prayers.

For the world. The leaders of the world as they seek to respond to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. For refugees and asylum seekers, that they may find places of safety and welcome.

For the church. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Diocese of Mandalay (Myanmar). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Brisbane; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for the Parish of Stirling.

For our local community. For the Collective and its ministry in the local community. For the Magdalene Centre, as it deals with the need to change the way it delivers services in order to safeguard the health of customers, staff and volunteers.

For those in need. For all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Sim, Dulcie, Jasmin, Henry, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Neil, Olivia, Elaine and David,

For those who have died. Those who have worked and worshipped in this place before us; those who have died as a result of COVID-19 and in other tragic circumstances; those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. ✠ *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

For the saints. For the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, St Mary Magdalene, St Benedict, and holy women and men of every time and place.

This newsletter will normally be distributed weekly on Thursday. Any appropriate items should be emailed to the Parish Office, StMMAdeelaide.Parish@outlook.com, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

