

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 11 May 2023

Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions will make it possible to open the church for private prayer and public worship.

Sunday Mass is offered weekly at 10 am, and the church will also be open on Thursday between 11.30 am and 1 pm, with Regina Caeli noon and 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 provide some resources for prayer and reflection: enjoy!



1. Fr Steven writes ... The Promise of the Spirit

The journey through Easter-time is now reaching its climax, as we approach the Ascension, with its dense symbolism of departure, and the practical language of inspiration and power at Pentecost, which brings us back to the way that some ordinary human experience intersects with the divine.

So this Sunday, I will be preaching on the Holy Spirit. And so, I want to signal two important aspects of the life and work of the Spirit.

On the hand, in the Gospel for the day (John 14:15-21), Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. As such, the Holy Spirit will be their advocate. In the process, Jesus underlines the importance of the deep connection that exists between God, himself, and the disciples. This is an immanent and personal spirituality. This is the God who works from the inside out.

On the other hand, there is also a transcendent and cosmic spirituality. So, then, let's think of the cosmos as the manifestation of God in the universe. In this perspective, the Spirit is divine energy creating and sustaining all things, working through the evolutionary process. This is the God who inspires us, instilling a deep sense of wonder and curiosity in all of us.

In these challenging times, we need both a personal and cosmic understanding of the Spirit that speaks to us from within and inspires us to look to the stars, and dream dreams.

In faith, in the Spirit,

Fr Steven

2. COVID-19 – Where are we now?

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 in the community has been considered by the Parish Council, which has agreed that we will continue to take a conservative approach for the time being, and to encourage precautions including Distancing, Ventilation and Facemasks: **DVM** for short. Distancing means maintaining a sensible distance of 1.5 metres between individuals or family groups; Ventilation means leaving some doors and/or windows open to allow a flow of air—and we have air conditioning, in case of extreme weather!—and Facemasks are obvious.

That being said, it has been decided that the time has come to reintroduce some customs that have been in abeyance.

- The foot-washing was restored to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. On this occasion it was a token celebration, with two worshippers participating: next year we hope to restore it fully. Likewise, the physical Veneration of the Cross was available on Good Friday.
- The Sprinkling of Holy Water will now return to the Sunday Mass. During Easter time, the ceremony replaces the Confession and Absolution, as a reminder of the sanctifying power of baptism and its special association with Easter. During the remainder of the year, it occurs as part of the regular prayers of penitence at the beginning of Mass.
- The proclamation of the Gospel in the midst of the people, with a Gospel procession to the middle of the church, has also been restored.
- We will again take up a Collection at the Offertory. Even though most of our community now supports the church by electronic transfer, there are some who do not, some who use envelopes, and visitors to the church find themselves uncertain about what to do.

We continue to review the few remaining actions which we chose to forego during the pandemic. In particular, we are mindful of the desire on the part of some to reintroduce Communion in both kinds, and will be looking closely at this during Easter time.

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 *A Prayer Book for Australia*, are available in either a fixed form (pp 3-33) or a form for each day of the week (pp 383-424).

Online Resources

There is an 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, especially the [Angelus](#) (or in Easter Time, [Regina Caeli](#)) 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 coming week is one of those rare periods when there are no commemorations in the church's calendar. So we take the opportunity to provide some reflections on the recent Coronation – which as we have noted above, was not all about the spectacle!

Below are a few items that may be of interest. There are links to the articles in the underlined headings below. These can be accessed on your computer by hovering over the link and pressing Control and Clicking the mouse.

The [Order of Service](#) is available here.

The [Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon](#) at the Coronation has been widely reported in the international media. The phrase, "We are here to crown a King, and we crown a King to serve" has resonated around the world.

The [music at the Coronation](#) included no fewer than 12 newly commissioned works, alongside some traditional elements. What the country and the world found at the heart of the Coronation liturgy was music, including 5 sacred choral pieces, and 7 instrumental or devotional works.

The [Anointing Screen](#) used at the Coronation has attracted wide interest. The anointing of the monarch is an intensely personal moment, and has traditionally been shielded from public view by a curtained canopy or, on this occasion, a screen. The article linked above is by the designer, iconographer Aidan Hart, and includes some wonderful photographs of the screen, which included Julian of Norwich's famous phrase "All shall be well."



6. 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 Sul-Ocidental (Brazil). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Gippsland; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for the Parish of St Luke's, Whitmore Square.

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. Pray for all those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Sim, Jasmin, Henry, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Olivia, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Edward and Neil.

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, especially Chris Herzfeld, 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, and holy women and men of every time and place.

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

The Parish relies on the financial support of the community for the majority of its budget. You can assist the Parish by giving electronically, using the following details:

Bank: Bankwest • BSB: 305 122 • Account no: 0324654 • Reference: Your name

Directory

Parish Priest	Revd Dr Steven Ogden ☎ 0408 817 147, ✉ stevengogden@gmail.com
Hon Assisting Priests	Revd Sr Juliana SI, Fr Philip Carter, Fr Graeme Kaines
Churchwardens	Peter Burdon ☎ 0414 471 894 Alison McAllister ☎ 0433 551 267
Parish Council	The Priest and Wardens <i>ex officio</i> ; Catherine Freriks, Alison McAllister, Hamish McLachlan, Peter Turner.
Nomination Committee	Awaiting Appointment
Synod Representatives	Ashley Durham, Catherine Freriks