

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 13 July 2023

Dear friends,

This newsletter was developed as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and our ability to gather for worship was so severely challenged. Thanks be to God, we are now able to gather together to celebrate the Word and Sacraments, and to come to church for private prayer. But the demand for and appeal of these newsletters has continued.

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 the Angelus at noon and Mass at 12.10 pm.

These newsletters are intended to provide some resources for prayer and reflection: enjoy!



1. Fr Steven writes ... A Very Special Vestry

Thank you to all those who contributed to last Sunday's Special Vestry Meeting. Thanks, once again, to our wonderful catering and cleaning-up team. Moreover, if you were not able to be there on Sunday, this is your chance to join in.

At the Special Vestry, we began to develop our parish's theology, where theology is about our shared reflections on life and faith. It is important to do this for its intrinsic worth, but it will also help in the future with planning and priorities.

In technical terms, we are developing an ecclesiology. Ecclesiology is a theology about what it means to be a church. It comes from the word *ecclesia*, which means *assembly*, and it is derived from ancient Greek democratic gatherings in the public square. The apostle Paul uses the term as a way of describing the church, where *church* means an open assembly rather than a building (e.g., Galatians).

Our theology encompasses our experience and our questions, as well as Scripture, tradition, and reason. In the spirit of Rahner's notion that God works from the inside out, we began on Sunday by sharing our values and our passions. Specifically, I was asking about our core values. Here are the key ideas/themes from Sunday:

- Acceptance, an open space, a multi-space, welcoming, learning, sacramentality, inclusion, questioning, clarity, service, volunteering, reflection, advocacy, challenging, witnessing, mystery, divine other, liturgy, music, arts, past-present, capacity to make public statements.

I am putting these ideas/themes in a format (below) we can work build on. I am also inviting you to reflect on this, passing on to me your questions, comments, and suggestions as this is a living document. I have added some theological commentary: -

- St Mary Magdalene's is a welcoming and inclusive Anglican faith community. We follow Jesus, the human one, who worked and died for others in the name of love. His humanity, compassion, and courage shape our faith and practice.
- As a faith community, we are part of a (holy) open space. This is a space for learning, sharing, growing, caring, grieving, and celebrating. We are committed to a life of care, generous service in the church and the wider community. This care is grounded in a commitment to love, social justice, challenging injustice, and advocacy in the public square.
- We are grounded in the life of divine mystery, the divine other, which is disclosed to us in the life of Jesus, and his friends from Galilee. We know and celebrate this mystery in daily life, in friendship and in solitude, in our liturgies, our music, and the arts. All this represents, what we call our sacramental view of life, which is honoured in our sharing of bread and wine.

Please let me know what you think.

Fr Steven

2. Fr Steven writes ... "The Conversation" Discussion Group

The Conversation is a discussion group, where the group's questions and aspirations set the agenda. It is based on adult-learning principles, with theological and biblical input from me.

Last week, we canvassed a range of issues, focusing on the complexity of human experience, the nature of suffering, and our shared humanity. From this, we came up with discussion points for the next four Thursdays (July 13, 20, 27; August 3).

July 13

Did Jesus fail? What do we mean by failure? What was the purpose of his mission? Sorting historical facts from theological reflections? So, who is the human one? And how does he make a difference?

July 20

The importance of good ritual. The role of story and symbol in the life of a faith community. How does this relate to the liturgical year? Good ritual is sustaining and renewing, so, what does it take to surprise us? What does it mean to say ritual is premised on divine mystery?

July 27

What about the Church? In the fourth century, under Constantine, it became "institutionalized" amplifying problems of power and politics in the church. How do we live creatively with our institution? The importance of church as an *ekklesia* (an open space). How do we relate to other denominations? Other faiths?

August 3

An exploration of mystery. The importance of "Aha!" experiences. What is holiness then? Understanding the limits of monotheism? New concepts: *an-arche* and *aleph*. Understanding the Trinity as symbol and story. What about love, forgiveness, and new beginnings?

Thursday mornings at 10 in the mission hall. All welcome.

Fr Steven

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](#) 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://stmarymagdalenesadelade.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. Celebrating Mary Magdalene in 2023 - 22-23 July

The Feast of St Mary Magdalene falls each year on 22 July. This year that is a Saturday, and there will be commemorations both on the day and on the following Sunday.

On **Saturday 22 July** the Parish is rostered to provide the meal at the Mary Mags Dinner. The arrangements for cooking and volunteering on the night are in hand, but some additional donations of cash would be welcome. Please see Heather Carter on Sundays after Mass.

On **Sunday 23 July** we celebrate the Feast of St Mary Magdalene. Mass will be at the usual time of 10 am, and will be followed by a slap-up morning tea, as befits the occasion. We plan to have some special music on the day, as we celebrate Mary Magdalene and her pioneering witness to the Resurrection.

6. This Week in the Calendar

This week, the Anglican Church of Australia remembers Sydney James Kirkby, bishop, pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Church Aid Society (d. 1935).

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.

A man of plain habits and considerable physical strength, Kirkby tramped Australia, often “humping his bluey” in the interests of lonely settlers in the outback and he became invaluable because he knew his fellow-Australians so well. The unusual spectacle of a clergyman carrying a swag and footslogging through the Gippsland forests in 1920 raised doubts in the minds of the local people and police as to his bona fides as a parson.



In a letter in 1906 to his former College Principal, Kirkby noted the long and lonely distances to be travelled by sulky in the parish, but noted with joy that his nearest clergyman neighbour lived only 15 miles away, thus enabling them to meet every five or six weeks and break down the isolation. He understood the outback settlers, their way of looking at things and doing things, and, in turn, was trusted by them.

While thus conforming to the bush image, he also knew that only good organization and the use of modern technology could make mission effective. 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.

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. 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.

7. Bishop Sydney Kirkby - Obituary

The death of Bishop Sydney Kirkby generated an outpouring of grief the like of which has seldom been seen for an Australian cleric. Even more surprisingly, it prompted the following generous obituary in as unlikely a journal as the "Methodist", Sydney, 20 July 1935.

LATE BISHOP KIRKBY

In the heyday of his manhood, the Right Rev. S. J. Kirkby, Coadjutor Bishop of Sydney, was stricken down with an illness which, to the deepest sorrow of all churchmen, and all citizens be sides, terminated fatally. The large number who passed before his body lying in State in his own Church (St. Philip's) from Saturday to Monday, the crowded Cathedral where the funeral service was held on Tuesday, and the lines streets of the city along which the funeral afterwards proceeded to the burial in St. Philip's Church grounds, all were eloquent tribute of the city to a notable churchman and minister of God.

Bishop Kirkby served his own Church with distinguished ability, but he served all the Churches. His catholic mindedness brought him close to the hearts of people of all denominations, who all mourn his comparatively early demise. Methodists grate fully recall the occasion of his coming to the Sydney C.M.M. to preach the anniversary sermon, which friendly gesture to Methodism forged another link of love towards the Mother Church, and promoted a spirit of the unity among the Churches. Members of Conference will remember his visit, in company with the Archbishop, to the Conference a few days after the arrival of the Bishop in Sydney. As a token of appreciation of the Christian courtesy of the two bishops, a large number of ministers and laymen of the Conference attended midday service in St. Philip's the same day, and the beauty of the brief service and the appeal in the address will not be forgotten.

He was a great servant of the Anglican Church in his own diocese, while his Church in the State as a whole will also cherish his memory for his interest in the bush-dwellers and the creation through his indefatigable labours of the Church Bush Missionary Society. God has taken him at a time when, as it seems to us, such a man as he was greatly needed by all the Churches, but "his works do follow him."

From the Nambucca and Bellinger News, 2 November 1934

BISHOP KIRKBY'S "TOWEL."

Bishop Kirkby was presented with a clock at the laying of the foundation stone of a church hall at Russell Lea, Five Dock (Sydney) a few days ago, and this prompted him to relate a reminiscence of his early stone-laying days. He had already laid one stone, he said, and been presented with a trowel, and he let it be known that he thought this would be sufficient for the remainder of his life. On the next occasion, he was presented with something else, and the rector announced that the Bishop already had one trowel, which he considered would last a long time. "Whether it was the reporter or the compositor, I can't say," remarked his Lordship, "but when the local paper came out the next week the rector was made to say that the Bishop had one 'towel' which was enough to last him for a long time. Some months later, someone sent me a copy of the London 'Punch,' where-in the whole story was repeated. Not a very good recommendation for the proverb that 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness,' " remarked his Lordship, amid laughter.

8. 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.

Pray for the world. For the leaders of the world as they seek to respond to the challenges that beset the international community. For refugees and asylum seekers, that they may find places of safety and welcome. For all who work for peace and justice. For reconciliation with the first custodians of this land.

Pray for the church. For all those who are striving to be church in the modern world, that we may be alert to the signs of the times and their interpretation in the light of the Gospel. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Diocese of Marathwada (North India). In our national church, pray for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council; and within our Diocese, for the Parish of Warradale.

Pray for our local community. For the Collective as it manages the delivery of the Saturday Night Mary Mags Dinner. For the Magdalene Centre, its customers, staff and volunteers, as they minister in God's name among those in crisis and in need of support and assistance.

Pray for those in need. 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, Olivia, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Neil, Hugh, James, Bart O'Donovan (priest) and Prue O'Donovan (Priest).

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 Anne-Marie McCann and Jane Wilson, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time, especially Robert Porter (bishop). ✠ *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.

Directory

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Parish Council	The Priest and Wardens <i>ex officio</i> ; Catherine Freriks, Alison McAllister, Hamish McLachlan, Peter Turner.
Nomination Committee	John Dow, Catherine Freriks, Annemarie Van Putten
Synod Representatives	Ashley Durham, Catherine Freriks