

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 14 December 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. And 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. Advent is here

Liturgically, the season of Advent is the beginning of a season of preparation, reflection, and anticipation. To this end, we are offering an extensive program. All this will be sustained and enhanced in our worship and our music.

Advent reflections on the practice of hope

A series of sermons addresses the big issues we face, beginning with our complex and changing world. I will be introducing new material from a range of fields to assist our exploration. The series will conclude on Advent 4 looking at "Cultivating the practice of hope". The focus here, and the climax of the series, is that the challenges we face are imponderable, **but we choose to live in hope.**

Hope is something we take on bravely. The key elements in the practice of hope are **story and symbol, community and calling.** We are inspired by the Jesus story, we share in the symbols of bread and wine, we belong to a caring and feisty faith community, and we have a calling, that is, a personal and a shared vocation.

Advent studies articulating the practice of hope

On Thursday at 10am on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, we will look at four remarkable and influential biblical texts Job 38:1, Galatians 3:28, Daniel 11:32, and John 1:5.

Advent midweek reflections, great way to start you day

Wednesdays 8am in the Nave, reflecting on the 4 weekly themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

All this sounds like a smorgasbord. And I hope you can find something here that will assist your Advent preparation. Above all, however, I hope you can participate in all these things. It can be good for the soul, and a tonic for our faith community.

Bring a friend. Make it memorable.

Steven

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Neil Smith RIP

The church was full to overflowing on Tuesday morning for a truly wonderful Requiem Mass for our dear friend Neil Smith. It was a celebration in every sense of the word, and Pauline and the family extended their heartfelt thanks to the whole parish community, especially those who helped out so much on the day.

We continue to pray for Neil, that he may rest in peace and rise in glory; and for Pauline and the family in the days and weeks ahead.

5. This Week in the Calendar

In the coming week we remember mystic and teacher St John of the Cross (d. 1591)

St John of the Cross (1542-1591). John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: “of the Cross.” The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John’s life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment.

John came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. Yet in this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John’s spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification.

Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly “of the Cross.” He died at 49—a life short, but full.

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John’s message—like the gospel—is loud and clear: Don’t—if you really want to live!



6. Rowan Williams on St John of the Cross

Like everybody else in his generation of Catholic theologians [St John of the Cross] takes for granted a picture of the human mind which sees it as working in three basic ways: the human mind understands, it remembers and it wants. Or, in more abstract terms, the human mind is made up of the interaction of understanding, memory and will. And the distinctive and fresh insight that St John of the Cross offers, is that if you put together understanding, memory and will with faith, hope and charity you have a perfect picture of where we start and where we finish.

In the Christian life, faith (he says) is what happens to our understanding; hope is what happens to our remembering; and love is what happens to our wanting. To grow up as a Christian is to take that journey from understanding, into faith, from memory into hope and from will into love.

St John also believed that in that process of Christian growing-up, one of the very difficult things that happened was that we lost our bearings on the way. What we thought we understood we discover that we never did; what we thought we remembered is covered with confusion; and what we thought we wanted turns out to be empty. We have to be re-created in faith and hope and love for our understanding our memory and our will to become what God would really want them to be.

We've lost a lot of our bearings. The Church at large continues to say what it has said; it says what it has always said in the context of worship and it reads its Bible faithfully. And yet in so much of the life of the Church there is a degree of loss of nerve and loss of confidence ... Somewhere in ... talk about freedom; we lose touch with the sense of the deep desires that actually make us who we are. We lose touch with the sense that there is a current in our lives moving towards a goal ..."

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.

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 Bendigo (Australia). In our national church, pray for the National Indigenous Bishop, Chris McLeod; and in our own Diocese of Adelaide, for the Executive Chaplain to the Archbishop.

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), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Nance, Edward, Hugh, and Bart 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 Neil Smith, 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 John of the Cross, and holy women and men of every time and place.



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF
ST MARY MAGDALENE
MOORE STREET, ADELAIDE | FOUNDED 1886

CHRISTMAS 2023

Sunday 24 December
11 pm Procession, Blessing of the Crib
and Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December
10 am Procession and Solemn Mass

Thursday 28 December
The Holy Innocents
12 noon Angelus, 12.10 pm Mass

Sunday 31 December
The Feast of the Holy Family
10 am Procession and Solemn Mass

Thursday 4 January 2024
Thursday before Epiphany
12 noon Angelus, 12.10 pm Mass

Sunday 7 January
The Epiphany of the Lord
10 am Solemn Mass

*LET US ALL REJOICE IN THE LORD, FOR OUR SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN IN THE WORLD.
TODAY TRUE PEACE HAS COME DOWN TO US FROM HEAVEN.*

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

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	John Dow, Catherine Freriks, Annemarie Van Putten
Synod Representatives	Ashley Durham, Catherine Freriks