

**St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church**  
Moore Street, Adelaide



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

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## **Keeping Community Spiritual Resources & Reflections**

**Thursday 16 July 2020**

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Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions makes it possible to once again worship on Sunday, and throughout July there will be a single Sung Mass for the whole community at 10 am. The church is also open for private prayer and public worship on Tuesday and Thursday from 11.30 am to 1 pm, and Mass is offered at 12.10 pm after the Angelus at 12 noon.

The decision to return to worship in community, even for private prayer, is not a straightforward matter, so we will continue to produce these newsletters for now.

In these Thursday newsletters, we offer ideas and opportunities for nourishing our personal and communal spiritual lives.

### **1. From Fr Graeme – Prayer and responding to need**

We all know how powerful our motivation to do something becomes once we realise that it affects us, or ours, personally. When something affects we are more inclined to act than if we have no personal connection with a problem or task. Many of our prayers in church lack the personal connection needed for our intense interest and possible action. We tend to pray for the peace of the world as a duty rather than as a heartfelt need in our lives. Even prayer for the homeless and for people who live in poverty lacks an urgency or personal commitment. We pray out of duty.

When we pray out of duty we are not praying wrongly. It is just that when we pray with personal conviction our prayer almost comes to life and we may easily live the prayer ourselves as an outcome.

When there is a plumbing problem at home we act on it promptly – it is our problem. When we pray for people in other countries who cope with constant plumbing problems, we are not usually really concerned about the problems. We simply hope prayerfully that the problems will be fixed.

No one is going to address the starvation, sickness and inequality in the world, as well as real efforts for peacemaking and better relationships between various people, unless much deep thought is put into it beforehand. It is vital that such thinking about problems begins with prayer. For example, if we prayer about leaders of nations in conflict with one another we need to pray that they all learn justice and love and that they bring these to bear upon their quarrels.

Most of the important leaders of nations do not know God at all in any immediate sense. They tend to reflect the poor understanding about Christianity on the part of the wider communities of the world. So the Christian Church has a clear task in front of it. The people of the Church need to do some very deep thinking about leaders every single day, and how those leaders can address their roles and the problems their people face.

If we live in darkness, we honestly do not believe that God is concerned about such matters. We can do better than this. We can ask God to guide and motivate leaders in helpful directions to act for the common good.

Well considered prayer for leaders or about any other problem or need is what we can do, no matter whether we are older or younger members of the Church. Prayer can also help us to understand problems and adversity in a new or different ways, too.

Fr Graeme Kaines  
Locum Priest

## 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 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). The Bible readings for each day can be found in *The Australian Lectionary*, and for reference the readings for the coming week are:

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Thursday 16 July	Ps 38 Amos 3 John 6.1-15	Ps 39 Ezekiel 21.8-32 Galatians 6.11-18
Friday 17 July	Ps 40 Amos 4 John 6.16-34	Ps 42, 43 Ezekiel 22.1-31 Romans 1.1-15
Saturday 18 July	Ps 41, 44.1-9 Amos 5.1-17 John 6.35-51	Ps 44.10-27 Ezekiel 24.1-2, 15-27
Sunday 19 July <b>The 7th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Ps 80 Matthew 12.43-50	Ps 86.4-13 Genesis 29.1-14 Romans 9.30 – 10.4
Monday 20 July	Ps 48 Amos 5.18 – 6.7 John 6.52-71	Ps 49 Ezekiel 33.1-20 Romans 1.26 – 32
Tuesday 21 July	Ps 50 Amos 6.8 – 7.9	Ps 119.41-64 Ezekiel 33.21-33 Romans 2.1-11
Wednesday 22 July <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>	Ps 32 1 Samuel 16.14-23 Luke 7.36 – 8.3	Ps 30 Hosea 14 Mark 15.40 – 16.8
Thursday 23 July	Ps 54, 55.1-12 Amos 8.4-14 John 7.32-53	Ps 55.13-28 Ezekiel 34.17-31 Romans 2.25 – 3.8

## 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 (App Store or Google Play).

The Divine Office of the Catholic Church is available online at [www.ibreviary.com](http://www.ibreviary.com) and is also available as a free app (App Store or Google Play).

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### 3. Sunday and Weekday Mass

Step 3 of the relaxation of Covid-19 measures commenced on Monday 29 June, with the number of people in church buildings (among other places) now uncapped, but still based on the size of the building and a 2 sqm per person rule. All the now-customary cleaning, health and hygiene requirements, and physical distancing will continue to apply.

**Sunday worship has recommenced, and for the month of July there will be a single Sung Mass for the whole community at 10 am.**

There are a number of implications associated with resuming Sunday worship. These are listed in detail on the web page and elsewhere, but in summary, there will be no physical contact, Communion will continue to be received in one kind only, and the offering of money to support the work of the church will be made individually, not collected.

We are aware that some members of our community are hesitant to return to corporate worship so long as Covid-19 remains a live issue in the wider community. Indeed, we are all in unmapped territory. In recognition of the likelihood that numbers will be modest as people return over time, Parish Council has also decided that Sunday worship will be a single Sung Mass at 10 am for the month of July.

All those who contribute to our worship week by week, and especially those who have made such a great effort during the enforced shut-down, are working together to ensure that these celebrations will be representative of our whole community.

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### 4. Reflections and Meditations

Fr Graeme and others within our community will be preparing Reflections for Sundays and Holy Days for posting on the web page. These will continue for the time being.

St Peter's Cathedral produces videos including reflections and Sunday sermons. These are available in a variety of formats. You can receive updates by subscribing to the Cathedral's e-news. Visit <http://www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au/community/sign-up-to-enews/> to register.

**Beginning this week, the much-valued meditations from Fr Philip Carter will be presented on our blog, <https://stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org/>. To access the tab, 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.**

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## 5. 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. Volunteers are attending at St Mary Magdalene's most days to ring the church bell while praying the Angelus at 9 am, 12 noon and 6 pm.

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## 6. In the Church's Calendar

This week we we celebrate our patron, Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the resurrection. Except for Mary, the mother of Jesus, few women are more honoured in the Bible than Mary Magdalene. Yet she could well be the patron of the slandered, since there has been a persistent legend in the Church that she is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50.

Most Scripture scholars today point out that there is no scriptural basis for confusing the two women. Mary Magdalene (that is, "of Magdala," an ancient city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee) was the one from whom Christ cast out "seven demons" (Luke 8:2)—an indication of any one of a number of severe illnesses – perhaps what we know know as mental illness, or even what the church recognises as demonic possession. There is no evidence at all that she ever led an immoral life.

Mary Magdalene was one of the many who were assisting Jesus and the Twelve "out of their means." She was one of those who stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother. And, of all the witnesses who might have been chosen for the first awareness of the Resurrection, she was the one to whom that privilege was given. She is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

Even if Mary Magdalene has long been a victim of mistaken identity, she would no doubt insist that it makes no difference. We are all sinners in need of the saving power of God, whether our sins have been lurid or not. More importantly, we are all witnesses of the Resurrection.

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## 7. Richard Stodart's image of St Mary Magdalene

Our parish often uses a painting of St Mary Magdalene by the American artist Richard Stodart. The painting is based on a story in which Mary Magdalene is said to have travelled to Rome to spread news of the Resurrection. While in Rome, Mary Magdalene testified to Tiberius Caesar about the Resurrection. Doubting her testimony, Caesar said to her: "There is as much chance of Jesus rising from the dead as an egg in the basket you are carrying turning red." Whereupon, Mary Magdalene held up an egg and it turned red.

In this painting, the egg is white to express Mary Magdalene's faith that it will turn red and confirm the truth of the Resurrection. Her gaze is one of sacred power, beauty, and compassion. Centred in the blue vertical column that pierces her corona are three vertical marks at her heart—signifying entwined body, mind, and spirit.



The image is reproduced here, and on our website, with the artist's permission.

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## 8. St Mary Magdalene – from a Homily by Pope St Gregory the Great (591)

When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and did not find the Lord's body, she thought it had been taken away and so informed the disciples. After they came and saw the tomb, they too believed what Mary had told them. The text then says: "The disciples went back home," and it adds: "but Mary wept and remained standing outside the tomb."

We should reflect on Mary's attitude and the great love she felt for Christ; for though the disciples had left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found, and while she sought she wept; burning with the fire of love, she longed for him who she thought had been taken away. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: "Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved."

At first she sought but did not find, but when she persevered it happened that she found what she was looking for. When our desires are not satisfied, they grow stronger, and becoming stronger they take hold of their object. Holy desires likewise grow with anticipation, and if they do not grow they are not really desires. Anyone who succeeds in attaining the truth has burned with such a great love. As David says: "My soul has thirsted for the living God; when shall I come and appear before the face of God?" And so also in the Song of Songs the Church says: "I was wounded by love;" and again: "My soul is melted with love."

"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" She is asked why she is sorrowing so that her desire might be strengthened; for when she mentions whom she is seeking, her love is kindled all the more ardently.

"Jesus says to her: Mary." Jesus is not recognised when he calls her "woman"; so he calls her by name, as though he were saying: Recognise me as I recognise you; for I do not know you as I know others; I know you as yourself. And so Mary, once addressed by name, recognises who is speaking. She immediately calls him "rabboni," that is to say, "teacher," because the one whom she sought outwardly was the one who inwardly taught her to keep on searching.

Homily 25,1-2.4-5

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## 9. Intentions for Your Daily Prayers

*We continue to 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 medical researchers, that they may be granted knowledge and wisdom as they search for a vaccine and cure. For refugees and asylum seekers, that they may find places of safety and welcome.

*For the church.* For all those who are challenged to be church in a different and unfamiliar way. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Dioceses of Northern Michigan (USA); Barisal (Bangladesh); and Barrackpore (North India). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Newcastle; and within the Diocese, for the parish of Hawthorn.

*For our local community.* For the Collective as it considers alternative ways of serving the community while the Drop-In Centre is suspended, and for its guests as they seek other places to eat and rest. 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. For all those affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus and all who care for them. For those who are commended to our prayers, especially Paull, Valerie, Bishop David McCall, Sim, and John.

*For those who have died.* For all those who have died recently, especially Raven Baylock; those who have died as a result of COVID-19; and those whose anniversaries of death occur at about this time. For those who have worked and worshipped in this place before us. ✠ 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.



Mary Magdalene announces the Resurrection  
St Alban's Psalter, 12th century

This newsletter will normally be distributed weekly on Thursday. Any appropriate items should be emailed to the Parish Office, [omarymag@anglicaresa.com.au](mailto:omarymag@anglicaresa.com.au), by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.