

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 20 October 2022

Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions will make it possible to again 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 the Angelus at 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. From Fr Steven – The Anglican Brand

In the popular mind, Anglicanism is Jane Austen, cucumber sandwiches, robed choirs, and eccentric vicars. Clearly, the stereotype raises questions about the Anglican brand.

The term *brand* is a marketing term. It is a shorthand way of describing our public face. So, I'd like to explore our brand under three headings: Anglican structure, the Anglican way, and the Anglican spirit. Without diminishing our failings then, this is Anglicanism at its best.

In terms of Anglican structure, the diocese is the basic unit of the church, and the bishop is the leader. All this is permeated by a commitment to democratic values. As a reformed-catholic tradition, we have the best of both worlds. On the one hand, we honor our apostolic, Celtic, and medieval heritage. On the other hand, we value the reformation passion for shared leadership. In practice, this means our bishops exercise authority in and with councils (i.e., the conciliar tradition). So, our decision-making processes embody a commitment to being a participatory community.

In terms of Anglican way, we value order but honor diversity, holding the two in creative tension. We live with differences of opinion, belief, and practice. All this is undergirded by the value we place on human reason and dignity. This means every member's experience is valued. As theologian Paul Avis expresses it "Anglicans cannot accept that any issue is 'off-limits' for discussion. Anglicans prize their freedom of enquiry and debate in which radical and dissenting voices can gain a hearing. They will not want to silence the lone prophetic voice, for fear of quenching the Spirit" (*Identity of Anglicanism*, 125).

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey captures the essence of the Anglican spirit, "Come and pray with us, come and worship with us, and that is how you will understand what we stand for" (*The Anglican Spirit*, 18). As Anglicans, we are contemplative. This is reflected in

private and public prayer. Above all, our worship is central, especially the Mass or the Eucharist. The Mass is a reminder that we are an *incarnational* tradition. This means we have a commitment to the idea that the world lives and thrives in the life of God. Therefore, love of and respect for the environment is central in Anglican practice.

It is not possible to describe fully the Anglican brand. Suffice to say, Christ is the key to the mysteries of Anglicanism. A loving and generous Christ, wisdom teacher and subversive prophet, who respects the dignity of all creatures. That's why we wrestle with the problem of power. That's why we celebrate diversity and inclusion. That's why the Mass is central.

Fr Steven

2. COVID-19 Update

With the removal of almost all COVID-19 restrictions, the Parish Council has again considered the precautions we have put in place within our worshipping community. Parish Council, noting that we (like many church communities) have a number of older folk and others who might be regarded as vulnerable among our number, 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, so we will neither freeze nor boil!—and Facemasks are obvious.

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 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://stmarymagdalenesadelaiide.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. Upcoming Events

At its last meeting, Parish Council noted a number of events coming up in the next couple of months. Please note these for your interest and information:

- Sunday November 6, Picnic in the Park after the 10 am Mass
 - Saturday November 19, Parish supplying the Mary Mags Dinner
 - Sunday November 20, Special Vestry Meeting to continue discussions about ministry and mission in the short, medium and long term.
 - Saturday December 3, Advent Retreat/Quiet Day
 - Sunday December 11, Art Group to provide a Christmas morning tea. This would provide an opportunity for the art group to show what they have done during the year and meet the Parish.
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6. Advent Quiet Day/Retreat, Saturday 3 December

Life, loss, and hope (I'm spiritual but not religious)

On Saturday 3 December, from 10 am to 4 pm, we will have a Quiet Day/Retreat. Activities of this type, in addition to the weekly Sunday Mass, offer a dedicated time for reflection, and an opportunity for spiritual growth.

If have entitled the day "**Life, loss, and hope (I'm spiritual but not religious)**". In this retreat, which also has elements of a workshop, I introduce a developmental way of exploring the sacred. This recognizes the complexities of the human journey and the importance of developing our own sense of self. For example, for those from the Christian tradition, this can be about leaving the "Sunday School God" behind and developing an authentic sense of self, and a new sense of the sacred.

So, the workshop-retreat will consider the possibility of outgrowing inadequate and/or dysfunctional religious and family systems. The day will be a mix of positive interaction and times for quiet reflection. The key theme is the recognition that sometimes we need a new way of thinking to bring about personal change, and deep change involves a respectful attention to the experience of loss.

Of course, each group is different. Typically, however, these are the kind of issues we address.

- Life as a (very complicated) journey
- Exploring new perspectives
- Change and the wilderness experience
- The wilderness as a time and place for renewal
- Change raises issues around loss
- Grief is complicated
- Saying goodbye
- The rhythm of life
- A community of friends
- Discerning our true vocation

The day will begin at 10 and finish at 4 pm, and will include a light lunch. The cost is \$10 per person. We will make an attendance sheet available in the next week or two. If you have any questions, please be in touch.

7. This Week in the Calendar

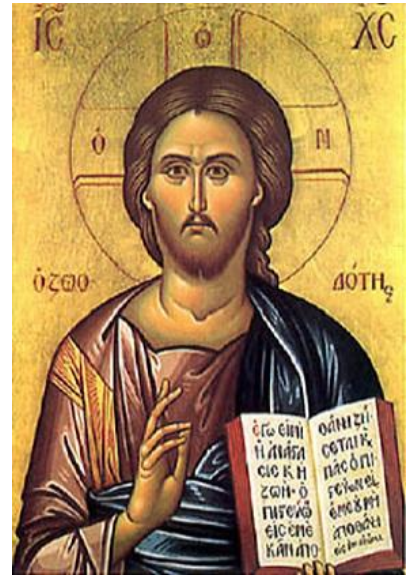
In the coming week we celebrate St James of Jerusalem. But who exactly was he?

James, “the brother of the Lord,” has puzzled people for centuries. The New Testament refers to three men named James.

James, brother of John the Apostle, himself an apostle and a son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21, etc.), often called James the Great. He was martyred by King Herod Agrippa I about 41 A.D. (Acts 12:2) and is venerated in Santiago de Compostela (Spain). (Sant’ iago means St James.)

Then there is James, son of Alphaeus, also an apostle (Matthew 10:3, etc.), often called James the Less.

This third James is the brother of Joseph/Joses, Simon and Judas of Nazareth (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3). Jesus appeared to this James after the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7).



We arguably know more about this third James than the others. With Peter, he led the earliest Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13-21), is mentioned by St. Paul (Galatians 2:12) and was stoned to death in 62 A.D. on the high priest’s orders.

This James is the presumed author of the New Testament’s Letter of James. He may have been Jesus’ cousin; other members of his family headed the Church in Jerusalem until that city was destroyed in 70 A.D.

Pinning down the identity of this James is no simple task. “James” is the English form of the Greek “Iakovos”, which in turn derives from the Hebrew “Yakov”, or “Jacob”. This being the name of the Father of the Israelites, it was a very common name among Jews during the time of Christ’s earthly ministry. Then there is the term “brother”, which to us means a male relative sharing identical parents with the person who calls him “brother.” The term, however, in some societies can include other male relatives, even cousins. And Jesus uses “brother” in an even wider sense in Mark 3:35 (“For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”), Matthew 25:40, Luke 22:32 and John 20:17.

Whomever James might be, let us give thanks for an undoubted hero of the fledgling church.

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.

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 Nebbi (Uganda). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Riverina; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for the Parish of Norton Summit.

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 and Edward.

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 James, 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, StMMAdelaide.Parish@outlook.com, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

