

# 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 21 May 2020

Dear friends,

While churches can now re-open in a limited manner for private prayer and public worship, it will be some months before we can resume Sunday worship, and the physical separation of many members of our community will continue.

One of the ways in which we are able to maintain a community spirit in this time of physical separation is to unite ourselves in acts of prayer and reflection – a “communal solitude” which may well prove to be a seedbed for growth in holiness and wholeness, for communion and connection, for resistance and renewal.

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

### 1. From Fr Graeme – Ascension: Lifted up beyond our worries

Our prayer often reflects our immediate worries and problems. This is good unless it becomes our entire prayer. Again, sometimes our prayer may reflect despair over our ability to grow into God's likeness or over our fitness to enter his heavenly presence when we die. Perhaps our trouble is the way we think about God. Our thoughts can easily make God into what he is not.

What do we think when we hear of the “glory of God”? Can we think of ourselves as “glorious”? The glory of God is to do with goodness – God's love, calm, peace and wisdom. Extraordinarily God created and creates the universe with all the skill, power and knowledge required but underneath it all are God's love, calm, peace and wisdom.

It is this God to whom we are accountable when the time comes. When Christ ascended to heaven he took with him in his humanity our vitality and sexuality, our fears, our longings, our passions, our needs, our strengths and our weaknesses. Jesus took with him the sources of our problems and worries.

The Ascension of Christ frees us from the prison of our troubles.

The Ascension enables us to get away instead of feeling that we are stuck fast in the mire of our worries.

When we eventually die we shall find that we are home, thanks to the Ascension of Jesus. He makes a place ready for us where we are accepted lovingly and where our worries and troubles are taken care of.

Our prayer can always be filled with hope and thankfulness because our eventual home will be with God.

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 21 May <b>The Ascension of Our Lord</b>	Ps 110 Daniel 7.9-14 John 14.12-29	Ps 97 2 Kings 2.1-15 Revelation 5.1-10
Friday 22 May	Psalm 51 Numbers 22.1-20 John 15.12-25	Ps 52, 53 Deuteronomy 29.1-21 1 Corinthians 10.23 – 11.1
Saturday 23 May	Ps 54, 55.1-12 Numbers 22.21-40 John 15.26 – 16.11	Ps 55.13-28 Deuteronomy 29.29 – 30.20 1 Corinthians 11.2-16
Sunday 24 May <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	Ps 133 Acts 1.6-14 John 17.20-26	Ps 68.11-20 Acts 1.15-26 Revelation 14.1-7, 15.2-4
Monday 25 May St Bede of Jarrow	Ps 62, 63 Numbers 22.41 – 23.12 John 16. 12-24	Ps 64, 67 Deuteronomy 31.1-15 1 Corinthians 11.17-34
Tuesday 26 May St Augustine of Canterbury	Ps 65, 70 Numbers 23.13-30 John 16.25 – 17.5	Ps 66 Deuteronomy 31.23 – 32.9 1 Corinthians 12.1-13
Wednesday 27 May	Ps 68.1-20 Numbers 24.1-11 John 17.6-19	Ps 68.21-35 Deuteronomy 32.10-22 1 Corinthians 12.14-31
Thursday 28 May	Ps 71 Numbers 24.12-25 John 17.20-26	Ps 119.65-88 Deuteronomy 32.23-38 1 Corinthians 13

### 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).

### 3. Sunday and Weekday Mass

Even though worship on Tuesday and Thursday is resuming, we plan to continue posting the prayers for Sunday and weekday Masses on the web page, along with a copy of the Order of Service for each day.

Sunday Services will also be available on our blog, [stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org](http://stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org), including prayers, readings, reflections and music recorded by members of the congregation.

You can watch live-streams of Sunday and Weekday Masses at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne on its [Facebook page](#) or its [YouTube channel](#). Recordings of past celebrations are also available.

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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.

St Peter's Cathedral is producing videos including reflections and Sunday sermons under the title "Acts of Worship at St Peter's Cathedral in Extraordinary Times". 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-eneews/> to register.

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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, in Easter Time, [Regina Coeli](#) at 9 am, 12 noon and 6 pm; as well as on Friday morning at 8 am, which is a time that is being widely observed by the churches as a time of united prayer for all those affected by COVID-19.

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### 6. Meditations for the Easter Season

Fr Philip Carter has offered a ministry of spirituality for many years, and has kindly supplied a series of meditations that we offer as reflections during the Easter season. This is the last of his meditations on the Beatitudes, the blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

#### Preparing for Meditation

- Find a place to sit comfortably. Mobile phone on silent.
- Take your time. Breathe in and out a few times, slowing down ...
- Don't try too hard. Relax. Be open.
- Prayer isn't telling what God should be doing but becoming aware of what God is already doing.
- "The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God and to let that goodness reach right down to your lowest place of need." (Julian of Norwich)
- When you seem ready, begin. You don't have to finish the exercise now, or today. If and when something arrests your attention, stay there. Savour the words. Let them speak to you. That may be enough for the next few minutes.

*Accepting God's invitation to share in the Paschal Mystery*

**Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you  
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,  
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Jesus as the self-giving victim, the crucified and risen Jesus, frees us to **deliberately choose and cultivate a life where our identity is found in self-giving love**, and not through making something of ourselves through rivalry, exclusion or violence.

*The Beatitudes present a sort of veiled biography of Jesus, a kind of portrait of his figure ... They display the mystery of Christ himself, and they call us into communion with him.*

*Benedict XVI*

*If you love, you get crucified. If you don't, you're dead already.*

*Herbert McCabe*

*The Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship ... and are the transposition of Cross and Resurrection into discipleship.*

*Benedict XVI*

*... there does not exist a "spirituality of the cross, but one of following him- a flowing that at times will demand the cross of us. There does not exist a "spirituality of prayer", but one of following him. This following will lead us to join in the prayer of the one whom we follow. There does not exist a "spirituality of poverty", but one of following. It will strip us bare if we are faithful in following a God of poverty. There does not exist a "spirituality of commitment", for all commitment or dedication to others is the fruit of our faithfulness to the way that Jesus followed.*

*Segundo Galilea*

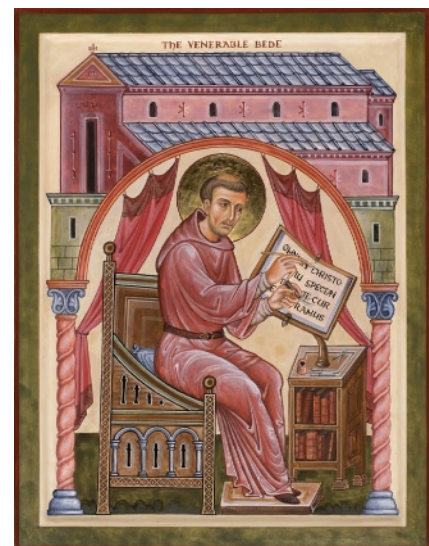
## 7. In the Church's Calendar – St Bede of Jarrow and St Augustine of Canterbury

This week we we celebrate the annual memorials of two great English saints, St Bede of Jarrow, more commonly known as "the Venerable Bede" and St Augustine of Canterbury.

Bede was a monk in the Benedictine monastery at Jarrow, near Newcastle in north-east of England, in the 7th century. He was well known as an author and teacher, and his "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" is widely regarded as the most important original reference on Anglo Saxon history.

Bede also wrote at length on other topics: the sciences, music, and, of course, scripture, work that deserves to be better known. In the homilies on the Sunday Gospels and those of feast days, he develops a true interpretation of mystery, educating the faithful to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of the faith and to reproduce them consistently in life, while expecting their full manifestation of the return of Christ, when, with our glorified bodies, we will be admitted

in an offertory procession to the eternal liturgy of God in heaven. Bede teaches that the sacraments of Christian initiation make every faithful person "not only a Christian but Christ." In fact, every time that a faithful soul receives and guards the Word of God with love, in imitation of Mary, he conceives and generates Christ again. And every time that those who are newly baptised receive the Easter sacraments, the Church is "self-generated," or to use a still more daring expression, the Church becomes "Mother of God," participating in the generation of her children, by the work of the Holy Spirit.



In spite of his renown – he was honoured as a saint even during his lifetime; his writings were filled with such faith and learning that even while he was still alive, a Church council ordered them to be read publicly in the churches; and he was eagerly sought after by kings and nobles and even the Pope – Bede managed to remain in his own monastery until his death which, like so many English saints, occurred on the Feast of the Ascension in 735.

### St Augustine of Canterbury

In the year 596, some 40 monks set out from Rome at the behest of Pope Gregory to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons in England. Leading the group was Augustine, the prior of their monastery. Hardly had he and his men reached Gaul when they heard stories of the ferocity of the Anglo-Saxons and of the treacherous waters of the English Channel. Augustine returned to Rome and to Gregory, only to be assured by him that their fears were groundless.

Augustine set out again. This time the group crossed the English Channel and landed in the territory of Kent. After being consecrated a bishop in France, Augustine returned to Canterbury, where he constructed a church and monastery near the present cathedral, begun in 1070.



Augustine wisely heeded the missionary principles—quite enlightened for the times—suggested by Pope Gregory: purify rather than destroy pagan temples and customs; let pagan rites and festivals be transformed into Christian feasts; retain local customs as far as possible. The limited success Augustine achieved in England before his death in 605, a short eight years after his arrival, would eventually bear fruit long after in the conversion of England. Augustine of Canterbury can truly be called the “Apostle of England.”

Augustine comes across today as a very human saint, one who could suffer like many of us from a failure of nerve. His first venture to England ended in a rapid retreat to Rome. He made mistakes and met failure in his peacemaking attempts with the Briton Christians. He often wrote to Rome for decisions on matters he could have decided on his own had he been more self-assured. He even received mild warnings against pride from the Pope, who cautioned him to “fear lest, amidst the wonders that are done, the weak mind be puffed up by self-esteem.” Augustine’s perseverance amidst obstacles and only partial success teaches today’s apostles and pioneers to struggle on despite frustrations and be satisfied with gradual advances.

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## 8. For your special prayers ...

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is celebrated between this coming Sunday and Pentecost on 31 May. The theme for the week of prayer in 2020 is “They showed us unusual kindness ...” inspired by Acts 28:2, and written by members of different churches in Malta. The significance of the Week of Prayer lies precisely in the fact that it is firmly founded on the prayer of Christ ... ‘that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe’.

Within our parish community, please pray at this time for **John Hooke**, who is in hospital. Fr Graeme is in touch with him, and we will let the community know when he is able to be contacted.

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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 peace, in the world, in our own hearts and lives, and within our families and communities. 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 Namirembe (Uganda), Abyei (South Sudan) and Accra (West Africa). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Riverina; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for St Barnabas' College.

*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; 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, St Bede, St Augustine, 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, [omarymag@anglicaresa.com.au](mailto:omarymag@anglicaresa.com.au), by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.