

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 Thursday 23 April 2020 **Spiritual Resources & Reflections**

Dear friends,

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 the suddenly altered pace of our lives, we might discover the stillness we all crave, the stillness from which all true wisdom and justice issue. What we love rather than what we fear may come into sharper focus. In these Thursday newsletters, we plan to offer ideas and opportunities for nourishing our personal and communal spiritual lives in the coming months.

1. From Fr Graeme – Jesus is sent to save, not judge

The daily Mass readings for the Easter season are very positive and give rise to immense hope in our lives. For example, yesterday there was John 3:16-21 as the Gospel, which begins with Jesus's words to Nicodemus, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” This led me to think carefully about judgement. When most of us think about judgement we imagine God judging us favourably or harshly – usually the latter! We have grown up to believe that our wrongdoing deserves judgement, and we include God in this view very readily as an exacting judge, who will hold us to account for all our mistakes.

Perhaps a better way of looking at judgement is to imagine, instead, a God who remembers without fail that he created us to have freedom of choice. In judgement, then, God will honour the choices we have made freely. Those who have consistently rejected the way of Jesus or who have preferred their own way very clearly will be allowed to experience the “darkness” they have chosen while those who have chosen freely to follow the way of Jesus in their lives will experience the “light” which they have chosen freely.

This story of Jesus's meeting with Nicodemus is not without its challenges. Verse 20, for example, says, “For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.” This perhaps implies that those who hate the light are ashamed and afraid to change their ways. Or is it rather that we prefer the light but are still ashamed and too afraid to change? Perhaps there are bad memories from the past which plague us and we cannot believe that God could have forgiven us for these. The Easter season calls on us to ask God for forgiveness, or more correctly to ask God to ratify his forgiveness already given.

It can be easy or quite possibly difficult to change attitudes and behaviour which conflict with the way of love. We all need to pray for the grace from God to change while there is time.

There is no sabre rattling here. The choice will always remain ours. We make our choices fairly easily now in our lives and we need to imagine that it will be just as easy to ratify our choices after we die. We die the people we have been in our lives.

God loves us all without conditions – to the extent that he will honour the choices we make.

Easter is a wonderful time to think about our directions in life, and about how much we are loved by 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:

| | Morning Prayer | Evening Prayer |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday 23 April <i>St George</i> | Ps 124, 125, 126 Leviticus 16.20-34 Luke 24.13-27 | Ps 127, 128, 129 Exodus 16.22-17.7 1 Peter 4.3-11 |
| Friday 24 April | Ps 130, 131, 132 Leviticus 19.1-18 Luke 24.28-35 | Ps 132, 134 Exodus 17.8-18.9 1 Peter 4.12-19 |
| Saturday 25 April <i>St Mark (ANZAC Day)</i> | Ps 19 Isaiah 50.4-11 Acts 12.25-13.13 | Ps 45 Ezekiel 1.4-15 2 Timothy 4.1-11 |
| Sunday 26 April 3rd Sunday of Easter | Ps 124 Revelation 20.4-6 Matthew 28.8-15a | Ps 3 Isaiah 42.6-16 Revelation 5 |
| Monday 27 April | Ps 140 Leviticus 22.-31-23.11, 15-16 John 9.1-12 | Ps 141, 142 Exodus 19.1-15 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 |
| Tuesday 28 April | Ps 143, 146 Leviticus 23.23-38 John 9, 13-23 | Ps 119.153-176 Exodus 19.16 – 20.17 1 Corinthians 1.10-19 |
| Wednesday 29 April <i>Catherine of Siena</i> | Ps 145 Leviticus 24 John 9.24-41 | Ps 147 Exodus 20.18-21.6 1 Corinthians 1.20-31 |
| Thursday 30 April | Ps 148, 149 Leviticus 25.1-24 John 10.1-18 | Ps 144, 150 Exodus 22.20-23.3 1 Corinthians 2.1-11 |

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.ibrevariary.com and is also available as a free app (App Store or Google Play).

3. Sunday and Weekday Mass

You can find the prayers for Sunday and weekday (Tuesday and Thursday) 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 new blog, stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org, featuring prayers, readings, reflections and music recorded by members of the congregation.

If you are a Facebook member, you can watch livestreams of Sunday and Weekday Masses at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne/>. Recordings of past celebrations are also available.

4. An Easter Time Prayer from the Orthodox

The Orthodox celebrated Easter, Pascha, last Sunday, and we rejoice with them in the resurrection of Christ.

The Hymn of the Praises, sung at the Divine Liturgy, says: *It is the day of Resurrection; let us be radiant for the festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us say, brothers and sisters, even to those that hate us: Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection; and thus let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, by death he has trampled down death, and on those in the tombs he has bestowed life.* Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς ανέστη! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

5. Meditations for the Easter Season

Fr Philip Carter has offered a ministry of spirituality for many years, and he has kindly supplied a series of meditations that we offer as reflections during the Easter season. These meditations are 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.

Naming what has died and being open to the possibility of new life

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The Beatitudes constitutes a massive **reversal**, a “transformation of values”, deciding what truly matters. “Blessed are those who mourn” asks us to:

- get in touch with what has died, or dying, in our lives, to name our deaths (Good Friday)
- claim our births, to identify what is coming alive in us (Easter Day)
- grieve what we have lost and adjust to the new reality (the 40 days from after Easter)
- let go, and not to cling, to the old reality, the old story, and let it ascend and bless you (Ascension)
- accept the spirit of the life that we are in fact now living. (Pentecost)

from Ronald Rolheiser, A Spirituality of the Paschal Mystery

The characteristic quality of each Beatitude is its ruthless and unqualified rejection of the common understanding of what it means to take up with the world and then its replacement of that understanding with a total reorientation of the imagination as we take up the way followers of Jesus speak and act in the Kingdom of God.

Eugene Peterson

The beatitudes ... are paradoxes – the standards of the world are turned upside down as soon as things are seen in the right perspective, which is to say, in terms of God’s values, so different from those of the world.

Benedict XVI

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. In the Church’s calendar - St Catherine of Siena

The annual commemoration of St Catherine of Siena falls on 29 April. Catherine was born in 1347 and from an early age had mystical visions of Christ. Her young life was spent in near total seclusion and prayer, but she later went out into the world to help the poor and sick of Siena as a lay member of the Dominican order. Catherine was a prolific letter writer, advising and at times chastising popes and politicians alike. Nearly 400 of her letters survive, along with *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*, a work dictated to her secretaries in the course of her visions. The following section of the *Dialogue* is read on her feast day:

Eternal God, eternal Trinity, you have made the blood of Christ so precious through his sharing in your divine nature. You are a mystery as deep as the sea; the more I search, the more I find, and the more I find the more I search for you. But I can never be satisfied; what I receive will

ever leave me desiring more. When you fill my soul I have an even greater hunger, and I grow more famished for your light. I desire above all to see you, the true light, as you really are. I have tasted and seen the depth of your mystery and the beauty of your creation with the light of my understanding. I have clothed myself with your likeness and have seen what I shall be. Eternal Father, you have given me a share in your power and the wisdom that Christ claims as his own, and your Holy Spirit has given me the desire to love you. You are my Creator, eternal Trinity, and I am your creature. You have made of me a new creation in the blood of your Son, and I know that you are moved with love at the beauty of your creation, for you have enlightened me.

Eternal Trinity, Godhead, mystery deep as the sea, you could give me no greater gift than the gift of yourself. For you are a fire ever burning and never consumed, which itself consumes all the selfish love that fills my being. Yes, you are a fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light and causes me to know your truth. By this light, reflected as it were in a mirror, I recognise that you are the highest good, one we can neither comprehend nor fathom. And I know that you are beauty and wisdom itself. The food of angels, you gave yourself to man in the fire of your love.

You are the garment which covers our nakedness, and in our hunger you are a satisfying food, for you are sweetness and in you there is no taste of bitterness, O triune God!

9. ANZAC Day

*I've had it with war—no more chariots in Ephraim,
no more war horses in Jerusalem,
no more swords and spears, bows and arrows.
He will offer peace to the nations,
a peaceful rule worldwide,
from the four winds to the seven seas
(cf. Zechariah 9:10 The Message)*

Despite humanity's noblest attempts to find another way, wars continue to plague our world. Our attempts to find another way, through international organisations and treaties, education, and the raising and equalisation of living standards, have had some success, but other, older agendas continue to rise up. The brutal lessons two global wars taught us in the 20th century have so far helped us avert a nuclear holocaust, but many local and regional wars continue, much as they did for our ancestors.

Today, in the West, we live in comparative peace. That does not mean we disregard those who are caught up in war. Countries do what they can to prevent war, often through diplomatic channels. The armed forces and some police participate in peacekeeping. They assist in some regional conflicts. They also prepare for defence should that be needed. As individual citizens, and as a church, we can offer safe places of refuge to people whom war has driven from their homes.

Our faith also tells us that there is another, higher way, the way of Christ, who has defeated the evil in us and in the world that causes war. We believe that Easter changes everything. God's kingdom is breaking into the world, and we believe in his reign of peace.

*Bishop John Henderson
Lutheran Church of Australia*

10. The War Memorial Shrine

One of the more memorable features of St Mary Magdalene's is the Shrine on the outside west wall of the church. It is a very distinctive work in the opus-sectile mosaic style, with different materials cut and inlaid to make the image of the Crucifixion, with the attendant figures of the Roman Centurion, representing the soldiers, and St. Mary Magdalene, representing the people of the parish mourning the death of those memorialised on the tablet. It replaced a temporary wooden shrine which had been erected outside the Church in 1917 which was in turn just the second of its type to be erected in Australia. Unveiled on 2 December 1923, the permanent memorial was crafted by the Melbourne firm of Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Of the fifteen named on the tablet, many were old boys of St Peter's College and had an association with the Parish Mission, though they were not regular worshippers. Others had a much stronger connection.



Ernest Cooper Baines was a printer. He saw extensive action in France for nearly 4 years before being wounded, and subsequently contracted pneumonia, before being invalided back to Australia. He died shortly afterwards and is memorialised at St George's, Goodwood. He was aged 26.

George Alwynne Garfit Barlow was a clerk who enlisted in 1915, and was killed at the second action at Pozières, which we now know as the Battle of the Somme. He was aged 27.

Lewis Gordon Brown was a postman, who had a long association with both the parish and the St Peter's College Mission. He was killed in France in 1916, aged 25.

Reginald Bennett Coad was a well-boring contractor, who also died in action on the Somme aged 25.

Charles William Cole was a driver who enlisted soon after war was declared. He was for some years thought to have deserted after spending time in a mental hospital, until it emerged that this was another soldier of the same name, and that Cole had died at Gallipoli in May 1915 aged 19.

Alfred Cotton was a plasterer, a keen sportsman, and a devoted church worker, much involved in the life of St Ninian's church at Prospect North. He died in France in 1917, probably at Ypres. He was 24 years old.

William John Egan was a labourer at the Government Produce Stores, and was another casualty of the Somme, aged 21.

Cuthbert Elsdon was much involved in the parish, with his family, whose name appears frequently in the registers of the period. He died in Palestine in 1917, aged 23.

Keith Eddowes Green was a shipping clerk, and the 7th man to enlist in South Australia on the outbreak of war. He was also heavily involved with the St Peter's College Mission, and a memorial in his honour was unveiled in the hall. He died at Gallipoli, aged 22.

Leonard Charles Hornabrook was the son of the then-rector, and there are numerous memorials to him inside the church. He enlisted almost immediately in 1914 and in 1917 volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps along with Charles Kingsford-Smith. He died of injuries sustained in a mustard gas attack on the Western Front in 1918, aged 22.

Christopher Keith Robinson was a railway worker who lived nearby, and died in Egypt in 1915 aged 20.

Harold Egerton Malpas, a draftsman, was another active member of the parish. He was wounded at Gallipoli and later died at Picardie in 1916, aged 21 years.

Leonard William Pepper was a fruiterer, wounded at Galloli, and died of septicemia in 1916 aged 19.

Arnold Harold Possingham was a career soldier who was killed in action at Gallipoli, aged 30, leaving a widow and young family.

The last named on our memorial, **Charles Frederick Suckling**, was not enlisted, but was a member of the Army Services Corps at Mitcham. One night he was riding home when he was thrown from his horse, dying of his injuries.



There is much more to be learnt of these men from their war records, and obituaries printed in the papers at the time. There are stories of devotion to family and friends while still at home, of camaraderie, of courage, of bravery, and even a touch of mischief, with several being cautioned – one was even docked 3 days' pay – for unauthorised absences, drunkenness, and other misbehaviour. It makes them real, and underlines the tragedy of their deaths, and of the futility of war.

*God of the nations, whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Almighty God, ruler of all,
in whose kingdom peace and righteousness abound;
we pray for those who are in conflict ...
Take away prejudice, cruelty and revenge.
Grant that barriers which divide may crumble,
suspicions disappear and hatreds cease,
through Jesus Christ our mediator. Amen.*

11. 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. For peace, in the world, in our own hearts and lives, and within our families and communities. 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 all those caught up in war and civic unrest; for the members of the armed forces; and for those impacted by the use of force, especially 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 Moray, Ross & Caithness (Scotland), the Windward Islands (West Indies) and Wondurba (South Sudan). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Tasmania; and within the Diocese, pray for the Parish of Walkerville.

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, and Sim.

For those who have died. For all those who have died recently, especially 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 Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, St Mary Magdalene, St Mark, St Catherine, 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, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

