

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 23 November 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 coming ...

The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday 3 December. Liturgically, this 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 retreat on our shared vocation of mystery, compassion, and inclusion

Alison McAllister, Leonie Zadow and I will conduct our Advent retreat on Saturday 2 December, adjacent to the Himeji Garden in South Terrace. Starting 9:00am, finishing 12:30pm (with an optional lunch at the Arab Steed Hotel in Hutt Street, see Alison).

Advent studies articulating the practice of hope

On Thursday at 10am or 6pm 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 on November 29, December 6, 13, 20

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://stmarymagdalenesadelade.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.

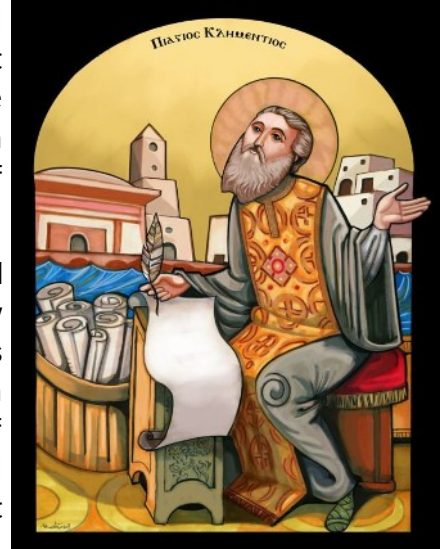
Service booklets as PDF files are still available for Sunday and weekday services on the web site and on the Parish's Facebook page.

4. This Week in the Calendar

In the coming week we remember the early church leader St Clement of Rome, and the Revd James Noble, the first indigenous Australian top be ordained.

St Clement of Rome (d. 101) Clement of Rome was the third successor of Saint Peter, reigning as pope during the last decade of the first century. He is known as one of the Church's five "Apostolic Fathers," those who provided a direct link between the Apostles and later generations of Church Fathers.

Clement's "First Epistle to the Corinthians" was preserved and widely read in the early Church. Indeed, until the New Testament canon was definitively settled in 382, it was widely regarded as scriptural. This letter from to the Church in Corinth concerns a split that alienated a large number of the laity from the clergy. Deploring the unauthorised and unjustifiable division in the Corinthian community, Clement urged charity to heal the rift.



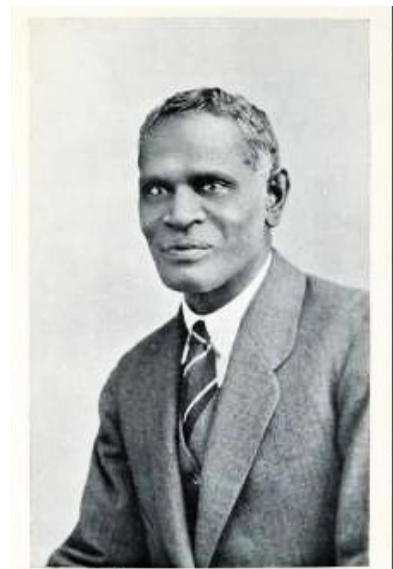
Today many in the Church experience polarisation regarding worship, how we speak of God, and other issues. We'd do well to take to heart the exhortation from Clement's Epistle: "Charity unites us to God. It knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect."

Rome's Basilica of St. Clement, one of the city's earliest parish churches, is probably built on the site of Clement's home. History tells us that Pope Clement was martyred either in the year 99 or in 101.

James Noble (c.1876-1941) was born in North Queensland, of parents from Normanton, in about 1876. While working as a stockman in the 1890s, he asked to receive some education, and was given private lessons in the evenings. His studies of the Bible led to a decision to seek baptism in 1895.

From the early 1900s, Noble became increasingly involved with the church. He was licensed as a lay reader at the Forrest River Mission in the Kimberley region of Western Australia in February 1925, and on 13 September in the same year he was made deacon at St George's Cathedral, Perth, becoming the first Aboriginal Anglican cleric in Australia.

After ordination, he returned to a ministry with which he was already involved at Forrest River, where he continued to build a fledgling community,



By 1928 there were twenty-four buildings at Forrest River, many constructed of sun-dried bricks made by Noble. While the Mission was run along strict lines, typically for the time, his involvement resulted in some signs of enlightenment, such as children who had been placed in care being allowed to return to their families at special times, and those being baptised being encouraged to keep their Aboriginal name as a second name.

In 1933 there was a permanent population of 170 Aborigines with some 800 regular visitors. In addition to nursing, Noble's wife Angelina taught the mission children, baked the mission bread and cooked for the staff. Noble returned to Queensland in 1933, being appointed first to the Palm Island mission and then to Yarrabah in 1934. His later years were blighted by ill health, and he remained in Yarrabah until his death in 1941.

A powerful evangelist and witness against injustice, James Noble is a vital figure in the history of the Anglican Church of Australia.

5. St Clement - from his Letter to the Corinthians

Wonderful are God's gifts

Beloved, how blessed and wonderful are God's gifts! There is life everlasting, joy in righteousness, truth in freedom, faith, confidence, and self-control in holiness. And these are the gifts that we can comprehend; what of all the others that are being prepared for those who look to him. Only the Creator, the Father of the ages, the All-Holy, knows their grandeur and their loveliness. And so we should strive to be found among those who wait for him so that we may share in these promised gifts. And so we should strive to be found among those who wait for him so that we may share in these promised gifts. And how is this to be, beloved brothers? It will come about if by our faith our minds remain fixed on God; if we aim at what is pleasing and acceptable to him, if we accomplish what is in harmony with his faultless will and follow the path of truth, rejecting all injustice, viciousness, covetousness, quarrels, malice and deceit.

This is the path, beloved, by which we find our salvation, Jesus Christ, the high priest of our sacrifices, the defender and ally in our helplessness. It is through him that we gaze on the highest heaven, through him we can see the reflection of God's pure and sublime countenance, through him the eyes of our hearts have been opened, through him our foolish and darkened understanding opens toward the light, and through him the Lord has willed that we should taste everlasting knowledge. *He reflects God's majesty and is as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.*

Let us then serve in his army, brothers, following his blameless commands with all our might. The great cannot exist without the small nor the small without the great; they blend together to their mutual advantage. Take the body, for example. The head is nothing without the feet, just as the feet are nothing without the head. The smallest parts of our body are necessary and valuable to the whole. All work together and are mutually subject for the preservation of the whole body.

Our entire body, then will be preserved in Christ Jesus, and each of us should be subject to his neighbor in accordance with the grace given to each. The stronger should care for the weak, and the weak should respect the stronger. The wealthy should give to the poor, and the poor man should thank God that he has sent him someone to supply his needs. The wise should manifest their wisdom not in words but in good deeds, and the humble should not talk about their own humility, but allow others to bear witness to it. Since, therefore, we have all this from him, we ought to thank him for it all. Glory to him for ever. Amen.

6. James Noble - from the Narrogin Observer (WA), 21 March 1925

The following newspaper report, just a few months before James Noble was made deacon in Perth in September 1925, is representative of much of the praise that his ministry received. If the language of the time sits uncomfortably these days, it remains an inspired and inspiring account.

The presence of a large number of townspeople in the Town Hall on Friday evening last, went to show the great interest that was felt in the visit of the Rev. J. S. Needham (Chairman of the Australian Board of Missions) and his colleague, Mr. James Noble, an aboriginal assistant at the Forrest River Mission Station, which is situated near Wyndham. The speaker spoke very feelingly of the sacrifices that were made by men and women in this field of evangelic effort ... He specifically mentioned the names of various Roman Catholic, Church of England and other missionaries who had given their whole lives to the work in most cases, without any reward other than a bare pittance to enable them to live.

James Noble, well built, alert and self-possessed in demeanour, with an intelligent countenance, then lifted up his voice in a sustained appeal for support on behalf of his kinsmen. James left no doubts in the minds of his listeners regarding his sincerity. He was there to tell the whites that it was their duty to save his people from extinction, that they were worth saving, and that as they were human flesh and blood with souls, they had a claim on the sympathy of the Australian people. At the mission station where he belonged the speaker said there was good evidence on all sides of what could be accomplished.

“Three times a day,” said James devoutly, “the mission bells ring to proclaim our thanks to God and to the people who are helping us to realise the great happiness which is ours, and which would dwell in the hearts of all the black men and women in Australia, were they given the same chance.” “I ask you,” he continued, “to give them all the chance of finding God ...”

The speaker then went on to say that he was devoting his life to missionary work, and had been doing so since he was a boy. He realised that being an aboriginal, he was better qualified to impress his kinsmen than any white missionary could hope to do, and he prayed that God would spare him for many years to come, in the work he had set out to accomplish. He gloried in his work and also gloried in the knowledge that he had found Christ, who he knew did not take into consideration the question of colour.

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 Awgu/Aninri (Nigeria). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Tasmania; and in our own Diocese of Adelaide, for Pedare College.

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, Neil, Elaine, Edward, Neil, 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 Prue O'Donovan (priest), 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 Clement, and holy women and men of every time and place.

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

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| 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 |