

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 22 June 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. But 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. Fr Steven writes ... “The human one: On hope and the practice of love”

What is our ground for hope? It is the practice of love. By love, I am talking about something powerful yet gentle, inclusive, and generous. This love builds community and works for justice in the world. So, then, beginning this Sunday, 2 July, I will give a five-part series of reflections on love. The five reflections are:

- 2 July Welcoming the marginal
- 9 July Queering the church
- 16 July Subverting ageism
- 23 July Mary Magdalene, feminist
- 30 July Irrepressible hope

The series begins by putting Jesus and his friends, like Mary Magdalene, in context. Forget about Jesus meek and mild, instead, this is Jesus the human one. The term “the human one”, previously translated “the Son of Man”, is the term Jesus preferred to use to describe himself and his work. The human one, with his friends from Galilee, represented a resistance movement inspired by love. By “resistance movement”, I am referring to the capacity to make a stand against injustice and exclusion. And this was risky business.

In the 1st century, Judea was a client state of the Roman Empire. As such, Rome made the senior political, religious, and administrative appointments in Judea. This helps explain why the Romans crucified Jesus, because his talk of love, inclusion, and justice threatened the Pax Romana (Roman peace). So, what about the future? Well, we continue to invest ourselves in the practice of love with courage, generosity, and irrepressible hope.

All welcome

Fr Steven

2. The Conversation

As social beings, we need to belong. And to belong, we need welcoming spaces to be ourselves, ask the big questions, and glean new wisdom for living compassionately and courageously. This is the impetus behind *The Conversation*.

So, following the success of our recent Thursday morning discussion group, we have come up with a new version called *The Conversation*. It begins on **Thursday 6 July at 10 am and runs for 5 weeks finishing Thursday 3 August**. The venue will again be the Mission Hall.

At the first session, we will discuss and choose topics of interest. Successive sessions will be led by a volunteer, who will present a ten-minute overview on the topic as a discussion starter. So far, suggestions for discussion include:

- What is salvation? What does it mean?
- Rethinking hope. Rethinking community.
- All life is suffering. What more can we say?
- There is no such thing as the perfect family.

So, welcome to *The Conversation*.

Fr Steven

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 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://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.

5. This Week in the Calendar

This week we celebrate the apostles St Peter and St Paul, and the first missionaries to the Torres Strait (1871), and “Coming of the Light”

St Peter and St Paul

The New Testament clearly shows Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus to have a special relationship with him. With James and John he was privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life, and the agony in Gethsemane. His mother-in-law was cured by Jesus. He was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus’ death. His name is first on every list of apostles. Yet Peter also has his human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus.

Paul’s central conviction was simple and absolute: Only God can save humanity. No human effort—even the most scrupulous observance of law—can create a human good which we can bring to God as reparation for sin and payment for grace. To be saved from itself, from sin, from the devil, and from death, humanity must open itself completely to the saving power of Jesus.

Peter is a striking example of the simple fact of holiness. Jesus says to us as he said, in effect, to Peter: “It is not you who have chosen me, but I who have chosen you. It is not human wisdom that makes it possible for you to believe, but my Father’s revelation. I, not you, build my Church.”

Paul’s experience of the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was the driving force that made him one of the most zealous, dynamic, and courageous ambassadors of Christ the Church has ever had. But persecution, humiliation, and weakness became his day-by-day carrying of the cross, material for further transformation. The dying Christ was in him; the living Christ was his life.

Every year on the 1st of July Torres Strait Islanders celebrate **The Coming of the Light** – this commemorates the adoption of Christianity across the islands.

It began on 1 July 1871 when the Reverend Samuel MacFarlane of the London Missionary Society anchored at Erub Island.

Torres Strait Islander community member Glen Sebasio tells the story that has been handed down. *“The story goes that on Darnley Island (Erub), unbeknownst to the landing party, the island people had planned to attack the landing party without any reservations. With this plan in place the men were war ready and in agreement to meet the missionaries with violence.*

Unexpectedly, a chief warrior named Dabad had instinctively decided that the landing party may not be a threat. He argued with the men of Erub to not hurt anyone from the landing party. It ended up being quite a serious argument. Risking their lives, Dabad and his son Nuku



faced off against the men of Erub, standing between them and the landing party which had Rev. MacFarlane onboard.

Finally, the determination of Dabad and his son won out, and the landing party reached the shore of Darnley Island unharmed. It was this particular moment that made way for Christianity to eventually be accepted.

From the very beginning, the approach to the evangelisation of the people of the Torres Strait was unique in missionary endeavour. Glen Sebasio continues:

"They stressed the importance of owning your traditional lands, practising your traditional language, and eating traditional food. This went a long way toward the acceptance of Christianity; all this takes place when celebrating the Coming of the Light.

It is recognition of the determination of an individual to risk his life for what he believed - to do the right thing even if everyone else disagrees with you. I know that my father felt he had that same determination within him and believed that same stance on the beach, that saved the lives of Rev. MacFarlane and the landing party, is applicable to everyday life.

On 1 July, every year, Torres Strait Island people come together to mark the day, feasting, and joining together, providing a theme of reconciliation, long before reconciliation was a thing, to invite other Australian's to join with us.

The Coming of the Light is the story a Torres Strait Islander man standing in the way to protect the London Missionary Society's landing party. It is the story of doing the right thing even though no one agrees with you. Be strong and determined to do the right thing.

The Coming of the Light is a shared day for both First Nations People and other Australians, where the Torres Strait Island people are the host. It is an island-specific public holiday and many Torres Strait Islanders, whether they live on the islands or the mainland, come together every year to celebrate.

6. St Peter and St Paul – From a Sermon by St Augustine of Hippo

The martyrs realized what they taught

This day has been made holy by the passion of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. We are, therefore, not talking about some obscure martyrs. *For their voice has gone forth to all the world and to the ends of the earth their message.* These martyrs realized what they taught: they pursued justice, they confessed the truth, they died for it.

Saint Peter, the first of the apostles and a fervent lover of Christ, merited to hear these words: *I say to you that you are Peter*, for he had said: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Then Christ said: *And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.* On this rock I will build the faith that you now confess, and on your words: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*, I will build my Church. For you are Peter, and the name Peter comes from *petra*, the word for "rock," and not vice versa. "Peter" comes, therefore, from *petra*, just as "Christian" comes from Christ.

As you are aware, Jesus chose his disciples before his passion and called them apostles: and among these almost everywhere Peter alone deserved to represent the entire Church. And because of that role which he alone had, he merited to hear the words: *To you I shall give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.* For it was not one person who received the keys, but the entire Church considered as one. Now insofar as he represented the unity and universality of the Church, Peter's preeminence is clear from the words: *To you I give*, for what was given was given to all. For the fact that it was the Church that received the keys of the kingdom of God is

clear from what the Lord says elsewhere to all the apostles: *Receive the Holy Spirit, adding immediately, whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, and whose sins you retain, they are retained.*

Rightly then did the Lord after his resurrection entrust Peter with the feeding of his sheep. Yet he was not the only disciple to merit the feeding of the Lord's sheep; but Christ in speaking only to one suggests the unity of all; and so he speaks to Peter, because Peter is the first among the apostles.

Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching and their confession of faith.

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 Tuam, Killala & Achonry (Ireland). In our national church, pray for Theological Colleges and Religious Communities; and within our Diocese, for the Parish of Tea Tree Gully.

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), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Olivia, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Neil, Hugh and James.

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, especially Bev Mitchell, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time, especially Ron Dowling. ✠ *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 Peter, St Paul, 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, StMMAdeelaide.Parish@outlook.com, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

Directory

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	Awaiting Appointment
Synod Representatives	Ashley Durham, Catherine Freriks