

# 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 2 July 2020

Dear friends,

The relaxation of some Covid-19 restrictions makes it possible to once again worship on Sunday, and throughout July there will be a single Sung Mass for the whole community at 10 am. The church is also open for private prayer and public worship on Tuesday and Thursday from 11.30 am to 1 pm, and Mass is offered at 12.10 pm after the Angelus at 12 noon.

The decision to return to worship in community, even for private prayer, is not a straightforward matter, so we will continue to produce these newsletters for now.

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

### 1. From Fr Graeme – LIGHT

Last Wednesday was celebrated as the "Coming of the Light" which recalls the coming of the Gospel to the Torres Straight Islanders. Usually we think of darkness as physical in the sense that we just need to switch on a light to dispel it. When the sun rises in the East its brightness lightens the darkness of the night.

It is helpful to think of darkness in other ways, too. In religion we are used to thinking of darkness as a description of a state of mind or an attitude. An ethos which prevails in a company or organisation can be described as a rule of darkness. It is this idea of darkness which the Torres Straight Islanders believed had been banished from their lives by the light of the Gospel.

Darkness is not necessarily confined to evil and wickedness. Our negative thoughts can plunge us into darkness. When we suffer from lack of faith the result can be instability and loneliness. These are a form of darkness. Constant frustration which leads to antagonism and all the uncertainties which surround us can stifle our love and affect the ways we treat others. All such darkness can cause ill health and it is just the sort of darkness about which we should be most concerned.

When we focus attention on God the light can stream in. God is love, joy, goodness, beauty, truth, wisdom and peace. God is so positive and God brings light to our thinking and our lives. Our prayer can bring us back to God and back to light. This may not be our experience the first few times. We have to grow into our thinking about God as positive and light-giving. Gradually we can grow into the light of God.

People are unwise to discuss their experiences of prayer with other people. Discussion like this can be limiting and distracting. It is better to let the light grow slowly and thoroughly within and eventually it will begin to shine through the sort of life we lead and in our general conversation.

When you start to make progress and experience, possibly, a new sense of peace and calm it wise not to tell other people about it. Just let it happen gradually and allow your life to speak for itself.

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 2 July	Ps 5, 6 2 Chronicles 18.28 – 19.11 Acts 15.1-11	Ps 7, 8 Ezekiel 10 Galatians 1.1-10
Friday 3 July	Ps 9 2 Chronicles 20.1-19 Acts 15.12-321	Ps 10 Ezekiel 11.1-25 Galatians 1.11-24
Saturday 4 July	Ps 11, 12 2 Chronicles 20.20-37 Acts 15.22-35	Ps 13, 14 Ezekiel 12.1-20 Galatians 2.1-10
Sunday 5 July <b>The 5th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Ps 66.7-19 Romans 7.14-25 Matthew 11.15-30	Ps 145.8-14 Song of Songs 2.8-15 Romans 9.1-15
Monday 6 July St John Fisher & St Thomas More	Ps 18.1-31 2 Chronicles 21 John 3.1-21	Ps 18.32-52 Ezekiel 12.31 – 13.16 Galatians 2.11-21
Tuesday 7 July	Ps 19 2 Chronicles 22 John 3.22-36	Ps 119.1-16 Ezekiel 14 Galatians 3.1-14
Wednesday 8 July	Ps 20, 21 2 Chronicles 23.1-17 John 4.1-15	Ps 24, 26 Ezekiel 15.1- 16.15, 59-64 Galatians 3.15-26
Thursday 9 July	Ps 22.1-22 2 Chronicles 23.18 – 24.14 John 4.16-26	Ps 22.23-32, 23 Ezekiel 17 Galatians 3.27 – 4.7

### 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](http://www.ibrevariary.com) and is also available as a free app (App Store or Google Play).

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### 3. Sunday and Weekday Mass

Step 3 of the relaxation of Covid-19 measures commenced on Monday 29 June, with the number of people in church buildings (among other places) now uncapped, but still based on the size of the building and a 2 sqm per person rule. All the now-customary cleaning, health and hygiene requirements, and physical distancing will continue to apply.

**Sunday worship has recommenced, and for the month of July there will be a single Sung Mass for the whole community at 10 am.**

There are a number of implications associated with resuming Sunday worship. These are listed in detail on the web page and elsewhere, but in summary, there will be no physical contact, Communion will continue to be received in one kind only, and the offering of money to support the work of the church will be made individually, not collected.

Most significantly, the treasured custom at the 9 am Mass of gathering around the altar will not be possible for now. We realise that this will be a wrench for many worshippers, as the importance of this action has often been affirmed by members of our community.

We are aware that some members of our community are hesitant to return to corporate worship so long as Covid-19 remains a live issue in the wider community. Indeed, we are all in unmapped territory. In recognition of the likelihood that numbers will be modest as people return over time, Parish Council has also decided that Sunday worship will be a single Sung Mass at 10 am for the month of July.

All those who contribute to our worship week by week, and especially those who have made such a great effort during the enforced shut-down, are working together to ensure that these celebrations will be representative of our whole community.

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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. These will continue for the time being.

St Peter's Cathedral has produced 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 the Angelus at 9 am, 12 noon and 6 pm.

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## 6. Meditations from Fr Philip

Fr Philip Carter has offered a ministry of spirituality for many years, and has kindly supplied a series of meditations for use in our private prayer in these past few months.

We are considering ways in which the weekly reflections from Fr Philip and the items on the lives and works of holy women and men throughout history might be continued using the blog, which is by its very nature a dynamic and partly interactive format. We would be delighted to receive comments on this proposal.

## 7. In the Church's Calendar

This week we we celebrate the annual memorials of two mighty figures in the Reformation church, St John Fisher and St Thomas More.

### St John Fisher

John Fisher was born in England in 1469. After he was ordained a priest, the royal family appointed him tutor for Prince Henry, who became King Henry VIII. In 1504, Fisher became bishop of Rochester and also chancellor of Cambridge University. Fisher paid special attention to people who were poor. He wrote eight books against heresy, and Henry, then king, was proud to be his friend.

All this changed when Henry sought to divorce Catherine of Aragon. Henry's request for a divorce was refused by the pope, and Bishop Fisher supported this decision. He was strong enough to resist signing a document siding with the King, though all the other bishops of England had signed it.

Six months later, Henry had parliament write another document, the Oath of Supremacy, claiming that Henry was "Supreme Head" of the Church – by which he meant the Roman Catholic Church – in England. Again Bishop Fisher refused to sign. This made the king angry. The bishop was sentenced to prison in 1534 on the charge of high treason. The pope declared the jailed bishop a cardinal. Fisher was kept in prison for 14 months without a trial. In June, 1535, he was condemned to death by beheading.

### St Thomas More

Thomas More was born in 1477, the son of a lawyer in London. He planned to become a priest but then entered law school. Besides being a shrewd lawyer, Thomas was a charming, witty man, who won the friendship of the Henry VIII.

As had happened with John Fisher, Henry VIII unsuccessfully sought Thomas's support for his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and demanded he too sign the Oath of Supremacy. Thomas refused to sign, resigned as chancellor and retired to his country home, only to be arrested and sent to the Tower of London, where he was held for more than a year.



Henry tried hard to make Thomas change his mind, but Thomas stood firm. He knew this stand would mean certain death for him and disgrace for his family, but he followed his conscience. Finally, after suffering hunger, cold, and loneliness, Thomas was led out to be beheaded on July 6. Seeing that the masked swordsman was quite nervous, Thomas said, "Be not afraid, for you send me to God." Then he said to the crowd, "I die the king's good servant, but God's first."

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It may seem odd for Anglicans to honour as martyrs two people who died for their faith when that very faith of the English church would soon see the emergency of Anglicanism as a distinctive expression of Christ's church. We know that Henry VIII was by no means a perfect ruler, and Anglicans as much as any have come to admire those who have the courage to resist the pressure to conform to falsehood, to the broad way, or to popular opinion, when truth and conscience are at stake.

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## 8. Prayer of St Thomas More

Give me the grace, Good Lord:

- To set the world at naught. To set the mind firmly on You and not to hang upon the words of men's mouths.
- To be content to be solitary. Not to long for worldly pleasures. Little by little utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of all its business.
- Not to long to hear of earthly things, but that the hearing of worldly fancies may be displeasing to me.
- Gladly to be thinking of God, piteously to call for His help. To lean into the comfort of God. Busily to labour to love Him.
- To know my own vileness and wretchedness. To humble myself under the mighty hand of God. To bewail my sins and, for the purging of them, patiently to suffer adversity.
- Gladly to bear my purgatory here. To be joyful in tribulations. To walk the narrow way that leads to life.
- To have the last thing in remembrance. To have ever before my eyes my death that is ever at hand. To make death no stranger to me. To foresee and consider the everlasting fire of Hell. To pray for pardon before the judge comes.
- To have continually in mind the passion that Christ suffered for me. For His benefits unceasingly to give Him thanks.
- To buy the time again that I have lost. To abstain from vain conversations. To shun foolish mirth and gladness. To cut off unnecessary recreations.
- Of worldly substance, friends, liberty, life and all, to set the loss at naught, for the winning of Christ.
- To think my worst enemies my best friends, for the brethren of Joseph could never have done him so much good with their love and favour as they did him with their malice and hatred.

These minds are more to be desired of every man than all the treasures of all the princes and kings, Christian and heathen, were it gathered and laid together all in one heap. Amen.

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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 refugees and asylum seekers, that they may find places of safety and welcome.

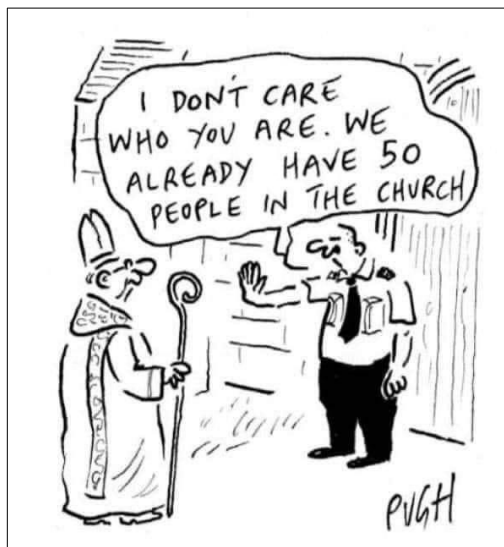
*For the church.* For all those who are challenged to be church in a different and unfamiliar way. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Dioceses of North Karamoja (Uganda); Auckland (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia); and Magwi (South Sudan). In our national church, pray for our own Diocese of Adelaide; and within the Diocese, for the parish of Broadview/Enfield.

*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, especially Raven Baylock; 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 Cyril, St Peter, St Paul, 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.