

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 30 June 2022

Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions makes it possible to offer the church for private prayer and public worship. Sunday Mass is sung at 10 am; and on Thursday, the Angelus is said at noon followed by Mass at 12.10 pm.

The decision to return to worship in community, whether for private prayer, or the public celebration of the Word and Sacraments, is not a straightforward matter. These newsletters are intended to keep our entire community informed on events in the life of the Parish, so we will continue to produce these news bulletins for now.



1. From Fr Steven – Appreciation

Thanks to everyone who made the Commissioning such a great success. Anne and I had a wonderful time. It was good for the soul. Throughout all this, our wardens Alison and Peter, and Sr Juliana, have been so supportive.

It was also great to have the presence of our Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor and the Rev'd Professor Paul Babie, as well as Bishop Denise, Archdeacon David Bassett, area Dean Jenny Wilson, and Registrar Joe Thorpe. Bishop Denise has been very supportive of our parish.

We are grateful to Peter Burdon for helping to make the service such a success. His care and attentiveness made for a great event. Behind the scenes, Catherine Freriks has been baking, cooking, and organizing. On the night, her kitchen team were brilliant.

Under the leadership of Chris Bright, our choir were superb. We also had visitors from the Cathedral in the form of David Heah as guest organist, and Les Milner as guest thurifer.

It was a delightful commissioning. So, thanks to everyone for your support and prayers. The service, the music, the singing, and refreshments were wonderful. I know many other people were working behind the scenes. I am grateful. I am also excited about our future together.

So, on Sunday 14 August, we will be having a **Special Vestry Meeting** to reflect on our legacy and our aspirations. Moreover, the purpose is not necessarily about looking for short-term solutions, but instead, it is about beginning a long-term process of mutual engagement. It is the start of a series of conversations about where we have come from and where we are going. In due course, new ideas and possibilities will emerge. Often, great ideas come from left field when we least expect it.

In practical terms, as priest in charge, I will be working 0.6 time. I would encourage all of you to ring or email as needed. So, then, my official **workdays** are Tuesday to Thursday and the weekends. My days off are Monday and Friday. On my days off, I check my messages several times for any pastoral matters.

This weekend, I will be in Sydney for a conference. So, Fr Philip will be celebrating Sunday's Mass. Fr Graeme will be celebrating at next Thursday's Mass. I am grateful for their support.

Every blessing

Fr Steven

2. COVID-19 Update from Tuesday 24 May

The Declaration that enabled COVID-19 related directions to be made was revoked on Tuesday 24 May, but there are still some restrictions on public activities associated with the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-Safe Plans are no longer required, though everyone is encouraged to follow SA Health guidance about infection control and community safety, especially if there is a risk of over-crowding.

It is worth remembering the advice of the Australian Medical Association that a face masks continue to be an effective way of minimising the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, especially in crowded or indoor settings, and anyone who wishes to continue to wear a face mask is at liberty to do so. We will continue to make face masks available, along with the other hygienic measures that have been in place for much of the past two years.

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 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).

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. 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. While the church cannot be open every day, you may like to join the wider community in praying 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://stmarymagdalenesadelaide.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 annual memorials of two mighty figures of the English 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.

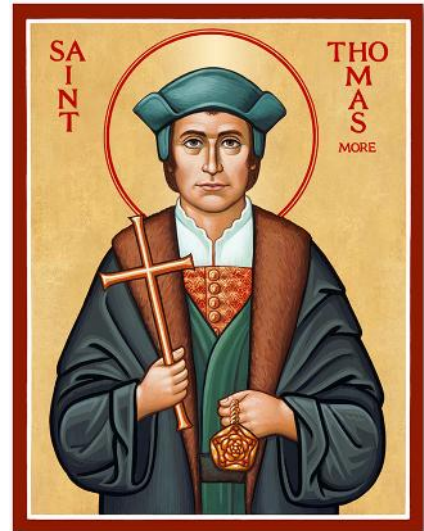
As had happened with John Fisher, Henry VIII unsuccessfully sought Thomas's support for his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and demanded he too sign the Oath of Supremacy. Thomas refused to sign, resigned as chancellor and retired to his country home, only to be arrested and sent to the Tower of London,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

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.



6. 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.

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.

For the world. The leaders of the world as they seek to respond to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. For refugees and asylum seekers, that they may find places of safety and welcome.

For the church. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Diocese of Dhaka (Bangladesh). In our national church, pray for the Anglican Board of Mission Australia; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for the South Sudanese Congregation at Elizabeth.

For our local community. For the Collective and its ministry in the local community. 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, especially Paull, Sim, Dulcie, Jasmin, Henry, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Neil, Olivia, Elaine and David,

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 Trevor Wilson and Sydney Kinsman, 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 John Fisher, St Thomas More, 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, StMMAdeelaide.Parish@outlook.com, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

