

**St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church**  
Moore Street, Adelaide



**An open, welcoming and inclusive community  
in the heart of the City of Adelaide**

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**Keeping Community  
Spiritual Resources & Reflections**

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**Thursday 30 March 2023**

Dear friends,

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions will make it possible to open the church for private prayer and public worship.

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.

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 provide some resources for prayer and reflection: enjoy!



**1. From Fr Steven - I Met God In Bermuda**

In troubled times, we need hope for the future and wisdom for daily living. To this end, theological reflection can play an important role in the discernment of wisdom and hope.

Of course, bad theology is obscure and esoteric. Good theology is wisdom for living. In that sense, we are all theologians. We know what it means to distil wisdom for living well.

In fact, many of us have theological skills we are not aware of. To this end, I will be facilitating a six-week course on Thursday mornings at 10am (May 4 to June 8). Venue to be confirmed.

Our text will be a book I wrote years ago called *I Met God in Bermuda*. It is available via [amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au) or [ebay.com.au](https://www.ebay.com.au) and elsewhere. Of course, I will receive royalties, which will help to pay off our apartment in Nice! Be that as it may, the book is a mix of anecdote and theological insights.

It is for the brave-hearted. And the aim of the course is to increase participants confidence, knowledge, and skills in the discernment of wisdom for the day.

Fr Steven

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**2. COVID-19 - Where are we now?**

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 in the community has been considered by the Parish Council, which has agreed that we will continue to take a conservative approach for the time being, and to encourage precautions including Distancing, Ventilation and Facemasks: **DVM** for short. Distancing means maintaining a sensible distance of 1.5 metres between individuals or family groups; Ventilation means leaving some doors and/or windows open to allow a flow of air—and we have air conditioning, in case of extreme weather!—and Facemasks are obvious.

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### 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.ibreiviary.com](http://www.ibreiviary.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 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/>.

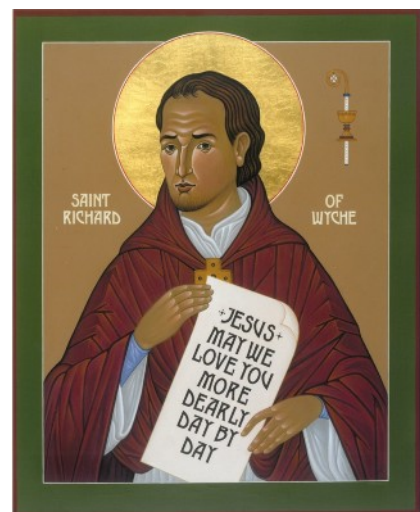
To access these meditations, simply go to the blog and select the "Spirit matters" tab on the top. If you would like to receive an email update when there is a new posting on the blog, whether for a Sunday or weekday service, or for meditations and other supports for prayer, please subscribe to the blog 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.

### 6. This Week in the Calendar

This week the church commemorates St Richard of Chichester.

St Richard was born in Worcestershire, England, to a wealthy family. He was orphaned while still young, but managed to regain his fortune which had been mismanaged by others, and received an excellent education at Oxford, Paris, and Bologna, Italy, where he earned a doctorate in law. He was appointed chancellor of Oxford in 1235 and then chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund Rich. After accompanying Edmund into retirement at the Cistercian abbey of Pontigny, France, he departed the community upon Edmund's death, taught at the Dominican house in Orkans, and was ordained there in 1243. Upon returning to England, he was named chancellor to Edmund's successor as Archbishop of Canterbury, Boniface of Savoy.



When King Henry III appointed Ralph Neville to the see of Chichester in 1244, Archbishop Boniface declared the nomination invalid and named Richard to the post, an act which caused an uproar in the kingdom. Finally, in 1245, Pope Innocent IV found in Richard's favour, but

Richard was prevented from entering his palace by the machinations of the King. Only after Henry was threatened with excommunication was Richard able to take up his duties.

He insisted upon strict adherence to discipline among the clergy, aided the poor, and fearlessly denounced the corruption and vices of the contemporary Church and the royal court. His death came at Dover, in a home for poor priests, while delivering a plea for a crusade. Richard was canonized in 1262, and his tomb became a popular shrine noted for its miracles until the Reformation in England.

## 6. **St Richard – from Butler’s *Lives of the Saints* (1894)**

Richard was born, 1197, in the little town of Wyche, eight miles from Worcester, England. He and his elder brother were left orphans when young, and Richard gave up the studies which he loved, to farm his brother's impoverished estate. His brother, in gratitude for Richard's successful care, proposed to make over to him all his lands; but he refused both the estate and the offer of a brilliant marriage, to study for the priesthood at Oxford.

In 1235 he was appointed, for his learning and piety, chancellor of that University, and afterwards, by St. Edmund of Canterbury, chancellor of his diocese. He stood by that Saint in his long contest with the king, and accompanied him into exile.

After St. Edmund's death Richard returned to England to toil as a simple curate, but was soon elected Bishop of Chichester in preference to the worthless nominee of Henry III. The king in revenge refused to recognize the election, and seized the revenues of the see. Thus Richard found himself fighting the same battle in which St. Edmund had died. He went to Lyons, was there consecrated by Innocent IV in 1245, and returning to England, in spite of his poverty and the king's hostility, exercised fully his episcopal rights, and thoroughly reformed his see. After two years his revenues were restored.

Young and old loved St. Richard. He gave all he had, and worked miracles, to feed the poor and heal the sick; but when the rights or purity of the Church were concerned he was inexorable. A priest of noble blood polluted his office by sin; Richard deprived him of his benefice, and refused the king's petition in his favour. On the other hand, when a knight violently put a priest in prison, Richard compelled the knight to walk round the priest's church with the same log of wood on his neck to which he had chained the priest; and when the people of Lewes tore a criminal from the church and hanged him, Richard made them dig up the body from its unconsecrated grave, and bear it back to the sanctuary they had violated. Richard died in 1253, while preaching, at the Pope's command, a crusade against the Saracens.

As a religious brother, as chancellor, and as bishop, St. Richard faithfully performed each duty of his state without a thought of his own interests. Neglect of duty is the first sign of that self-love which ends with the loss of grace.

The prayer attributed to him on his death-bed, known as the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester, remains a much-loved devotion to this day.

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
 for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
 for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
 O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
 may I know thee more clearly,  
 love thee more dearly,  
 and follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
 Amen.

## 7. A Walk Through Holy Week

The high holy days of the Christian faith are almost here. This Sunday, Palm Sunday, we will read the passion narrative from the Gospel of Matthew. During Holy Week, the liturgy focuses on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Here is an overview and an invitation to join in the three days of the Passover feast.

Every year during the week-long celebration of Passover, our Hebrew ancestors in faith celebrate their liberation from slavery. We Christians recall the Lord's Last Supper with his disciples during the days of our Passover celebration. The Eucharist on Holy Thursday is our ritual, our memorial of redemption through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

On Good Friday, we read the narrative of the passion and death of Jesus from the Gospel of John. We pray for people all over the world and their needs. We venerate the cross as a reminder that it was through Jesus' passion and death that he opened our path to salvation. In that Good Friday liturgy, all the congregation is invited to approach and adore the cross in an act of devotion and reverence.

On Saturday evening, at the Easter vigil, we recall key points in the history of salvation by lighting the new fire, blessing the Easter Candle, which is the great symbol of our faith. It is also the time when we read some of the great biblical texts (from Genesis and Exodus, from the prophets and the New Testament). The readings recall the high points of salvation history. Just before reading the narrative of Christ's resurrection, we join together to joyfully sing the Alleluia. During the vigil, we renew our baptismal promises.

This three-day celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord during Holy Week is at the heart of our faith in Jesus, the Christ. We are called to live this mystery every day by living our lives in the same pattern as Christ.

## 8. 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 Kolhapur (North India). In our national church, pray for the Anglican Board of Mission Australia; and within the Diocese of Adelaide, for the Chaplaincy to Flinders Medical Centre.

*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.* Pray for all those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Sim, Jasmin, Henry, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), Robert Whalley (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Mark, Olivia, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Edward and Neil.

*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, 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, and holy women and men of every time and place.