

**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**

**Thursday 31 August 2023**

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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 ... Putting The Voice in Context**

Dear Friends

I am no expert on first nations culture, but I have done research on the emergence of a European sense of entitlement, which played a role in the dispossession of first nations people, colonialism, and slavery. In European history, this sense of entitlement was normalized. We felt entitled to be entitled. This meant we did not respect the needs of others (Ogden, *Violence, Entitlement, and Politics*. Routledge: 2022).

In the ministry of Jesus, the human one, we are called to embrace the other. To see things from their perspective. As we approach *The Voice* referendum, we need to recall the European heritage of Australia. By knowing something about colonialism, for example, we see our first nations sisters and brothers with new eyes.

In terms of background, I would recommend a readable, and brilliant book called Brenna Bhandar's *Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership* (Duke University Press, 2018). It looks at a range of examples, including Australia (e.g., Torrens Title system of land registration). It is the sort of book that puts things in context.

So, I hope you can join me this Sunday afternoon at 1pm in the nave for our event "Understanding The Voice" with two distinguished thinkers and speakers Uncle David Rathman AM and Chris Charles.

As ever, all are welcome.

Fr Steven

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## 2. “Mystery, Community, Creativity” – Developing a theology and practice of adaptation

The **Season of Creation** is an annual global movement where Christian communities pray and act to care for God's creation. It arose out of a proclamation in 1989 by the Ecumenical Patriarch that September 1 would be the “Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation”. Subsequently, the World Council of Churches extended the celebration until October 4, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. In turn, in 2015 Pope Francis formalised the observance of the Season of Creation in the Roman Catholic Church, particularly in the light of his Encyclical Letter *Laudato si'* “on care for our common home.”

We will reflect on the themes of the Season of Creation throughout September. As Chair of the Diocesan Climate Action Working Group, I will be preaching in the Cathedral on Sunday 3 September. Then on Sundays 10, 17 and 24 September, I will present a three-part series of reflections at St Mary Magdalene's during the 10 am Mass.

We are over doom-saying climate statistics. We need new ways of thinking and living. In challenging times, then, we need to be grounded in the mystery of love, building compassionate communities, and working together with creativity. This series of reflections on mystery, community and creativity will be based on the following themes

10 September – Grounded in mystery

17 September – In Community: Lone heroes do not apply

24 September – With Creativity: A spirituality about love, curiosity, and trees

Fr Steven

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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.ibreviary.com](http://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.

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## 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

In the coming week we celebrate the Martyrs of New Guinea (d. 1942), the early church bishop and teacher St Gregory of Rome, and the Australian social reformer Eliza Darling (d. 1868).

**The New Guinea Martyrs** (2 September) are of deep significance in our part of the world. They are 12 Anglican clergy, nurses, teachers and other Christian workers who were executed by Japanese soldiers during the Japanese occupation of Papua, New Guinea and other parts of Melanesia in 1942 and 1943.

The Bishop of New Guinea, Philip Strong, instructed Anglican clergy and missionaries to remain in their ministries even if the Japanese were to overrun their posts. In the course of the occupation, many were arrested, and some were executed.

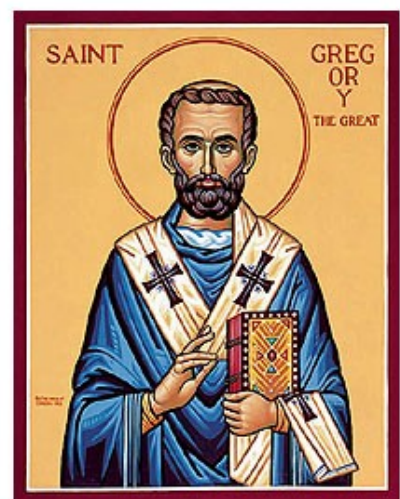
(Altogether, around 400 Christian clergy and church workers were killed in Melanesia during the Japanese occupation - the largest group being Roman Catholics.)

There is a very particular connection between the Diocese of Adelaide and the New Guinea Martyrs. Lilla Lashmar was a teacher and a member of the Parish of Prospect who offered herself for missionary service, was captured during the occupation, and was beheaded by her captors. A stained glass window in her memory in St Cuthbert's, Prospect (pictured) features a Cross of Sacrifice. The cross in the window was a gift of the Japanese Anglican Church.



**St Gregory the Great** (3 September) is another great saint of the early church. He was Prefect of Rome before the age of 30, but after five years in office he resigned, founded six monasteries on his Sicilian estate, and became a Benedictine monk. He was later ordained a priest, Gregory became one of the pope's seven deacons, and also served six years in the East as papal representative in Constantinople. He was recalled to become abbot, then at the age of 50 was elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome.

Gregory was direct and firm. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and the victims of plague and famine.



Among his writings, his book *Pastoral Care*, on the duties and qualities of a bishop, was read for centuries after his death. He described bishops mainly as physicians whose main duties

were preaching and the enforcement of discipline. In his own down-to-earth preaching, Gregory was skilled at applying the daily Gospel to the needs of his listeners. Called “the Great,” Gregory has been given a place with Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome, as one of the four key doctors of the Western Church. An Anglican historian has written: “It is impossible to conceive what would have been the confusion, the lawlessness, the chaotic state of the Middle Ages without the medieval papacy; and of the medieval papacy, the real father is Gregory the Great.”

Sharing a date of commemoration with St Gregory is **Eliza Darling**. A devout Anglican of evangelical leanings, she showed a practical interest in the well-being of less fortunate elements in society. This was particularly evident while she was in New South Wales, where her husband was Governor from 1824 to 1831. Here she used her position to establish the Female School of Industry, “to assist the women convicts in the Female Factory and to improve the morality of the convicts.”

Eliza regarded prayer and worship as a source of strength and comfort, as well as essential to moral and spiritual well-being. But hers was a strong practical faith: she took practical steps to see that those most in need of support and guidance were able to receive it.



## 6. From a Sermon on the New Guinea Martyrs by Fr Daniel Dries

[On 2] September, our church commemorates the memorial of a group commonly referred to as the ‘Martyrs of New Guinea’. The term ‘The New Guinea Martyrs’ suggests the 13 Anglican missionaries, including 5 priests, who were killed by Japanese soldiers in World War II as an ‘example to others’. However, it is believed that there were in fact several hundred Christian missionaries killed in New Guinea as an ‘example to others’.

The death of the New Guinea Martyrs does provide an extraordinary example of enduring faith for the likes of us. As the very dark shadow of World War II hovered above New Guinea, it became very obvious that missionaries of European origin would be in very grave danger. However, the Bishop of New Guinea, Bishop Philip Strong, sent a very clear message to his clergy regarding the horrifying trials that would soon confront them: He wrote: *"We must endeavour to carry on our work. God expects this of us. The church at home, which sent us out, will surely expect it of us. The universal church expects it of us. The people whom we serve expect it of us. We could never hold up our faces again if, for our own safety, we all forsook Him and fled, when the shadows of the Passion began to gather around Him in His spiritual and mystical body, the Church in Papua."*

Bishop Strong seems to have possessed a very deep understanding about the nature and purpose of suffering. He could have encouraged his clergy and laity to protect themselves; he could have instructed them to flee and to avoid certain persecution. His clergy could have ignored his instructions – priests don’t always follow their Bishop’s instructions. But it would seem that they too were able to find the strength and the courage to confront the most unimaginable suffering.

The martyrs of New Guinea must have offered the most extraordinary prayers as their faith was put to test ... and somehow they were given the strength to endure.



## 7. From a homily on Ezekiel by St Gregory the Great

### For Christ's love I do not spare myself in speaking of him

*Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel.* Note that one whom the Lord sends forth as a preacher is called a watcher. A watcher always stands on a height to see from afar what is coming. Anyone appointed to be a watcher for the people must stand on a height for all his life to help them by his foresight.

How hard it is for me to say this, for by these very words I denounce myself. I cannot preach with any competence, and yet insofar as I do succeed, still I myself do not live my life according to my own preaching.

I do not deny my responsibility; I recognize that I am slothful and negligent, but perhaps the acknowledgment of my fault will win me pardon from my just judge. Indeed when I was in the monastery I could curb my idle talk and usually be absorbed in my prayers. Since I assumed the burden of pastoral care, my mind can no longer be collected; it is concerned with so many matters.

I am forced to consider the affairs of the Church and of the monasteries. I must weigh the lives and acts of individuals. I am responsible for the concerns of our citizens. I must worry about the invasions of roving bands of barbarians, and beware of the wolves who lie in wait for my flock. I must become an administrator lest the religious go in want. I must put up with certain robbers without losing patience and at times I must deal with them in all charity.

With my mind divided and torn to pieces by so many problems, how can I meditate or preach wholeheartedly without neglecting the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel? Moreover, in my position I must often communicate with worldly men. At times I let my tongue run, for if I am always severe in my judgments, the worldly will avoid me, and I can never attack them as I would. As a result I often listen patiently to chatter. And because I too am weak, I find myself drawn little by little into idle conversation, and I begin to talk freely about matters which once I would have avoided. What once I found tedious I now enjoy.

So who am I to be a watcher, for I do not stand on the mountain of action but lie down in the valley of weakness? Truly the all-powerful Creator and Redeemer of humankind can give me in spite of my weaknesses a higher life and effective speech; because I love him, I do not spare myself in speaking of him.

## 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.*

*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 Murang'a South (Kenya). In our national church, pray for the Anglican Board of Mission Australia and the National Council of Churches; and in our own Diocese of Adelaide, for the Parish of Gawler.

*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), Mark, Nance, Neil, Elaine, Edward, Neil, Hugh, Bart O'Donovan (priest) and Prue O'Donovan (Priest).

*Pray for those who have died.* Those who have worked and worshipped in this place before us; those who have died alone or in 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, the New Guinea Martyrs, St Gregory, 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](mailto:StMMAdelaide.Parish@outlook.com), by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

#### Directory

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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