

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 9 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 – Working out one's purpose in life through prayer

On Tuesday, I referred to our values and how we might commend them to other people. Our values can have a distinct bearing on our purpose in life. To determine or discover our purpose in life is easier said than done. One way of growing into this task is to make it a subject of our prayer. This is not selfish prayer because we are not, after all, seeking pleasure or gain for ourselves. A purpose in life can be very demanding, need much courage and a lot of patience and resilience.

Our purpose in life is to do with God's purpose for creation – in particular this planet on which our life is centred. So in our prayer we are trying to discern this purpose God has for this earth. Can we see that God depends on us for our co-operation if his purpose is to be achieved? It is here where our purpose is to be found.

This requires of us much thinking before our prayer begins. We need, after all, to think first about most things we tackle. Some of us make lists before we go shopping or before we go away on holiday. Thinking first about our prayer can help enrich our prayer and ensure that we have in mind all the factors concerned with whatever we are offering or seeking in prayer.

When praying or thinking about the world as it is we need to have in mind all the peoples of the world for a start - all the children of God. We may be thankful for all that we have in Australia but surely we must remember that so many of our brothers and sisters in the world are unable to share our bounty. The human race is the family of God and we can hope and strive for greater unity among us all instead of all the cruelty, oppression and poverty.

Prayer can help to make us aware of the urgency there is for human unity. Can we really be satisfied with the world as it is? Sometimes we are critical of the world but fail to understand the urgency for remedial action.

Thought is very powerful. It precedes virtually everything we do. It is the beginning of action. St Paul writes that he longed to have the mind of Christ. It follows that he longed to have the thoughts of Christ in mind to guide his actions in life.

Before prayer, then, think carefully about the world in which you lead your life. Ask yourself about God's purpose for this world and its people, as well as its other creatures and resources. Where and in which way can your life make a good difference?

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:

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
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
Friday 10 July	Ps 25 2 Chronicles 24.15 – 25.4 John 4.27-42	Ps 27 Ezekiel 18.1-32 Galatians 4.8-20
Saturday 11 July <i>St Benedict of Nursia</i>	Ps 28, 29 2 Chronicles 25.5 – 26.1 John 4.43-54	Ps 30, 32 Ezekiel 19 Galatians 4.21-31
Sunday 12 July The 6th Sunday after Pentecost	Ps 19 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 12.33-42	Ps 65 Genesis 26.1-6, 23-25 Romans 9.15-26
Monday 13 July <i>Sydney James Kirkby, pioneer of outback ministry</i>	Ps 35.1-17 Amos 1.1-10 John 5.1-18	Ps 35.18-29, 36 Ezekiel 20.1-17 Galatians 5.1-15
Tuesday 14 July	Ps 34 Amos 1.11 - 2.5 John 5.19-30	Ps 119.17-40 Ezekiel 20.18-38 Galatians 5.16-26
Wednesday 15 July	Ps 37.1-17 Amos 2.6-16 John 5.30-47	Ps 37.18-41 Ezekiel 20.39 – 21.7 Galatians 6.1-10
Thursday 16 July	Os 38 Amos 3 John 6.1-15	Ps 39 Ezekiel 21.8-32 Galatians 6.11-18

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 and is also available as a free app (App Store or Google Play).

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.

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.

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.

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 nature a dynamic and partly interactive format. We would be delighted to receive comments on this proposal.

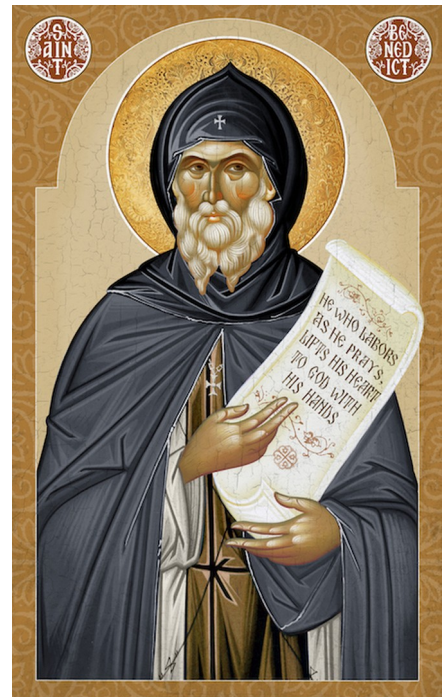
7. In the Church's Calendar

This week we we celebrate the annual memorials of one of the great monastic saints, St Benedict, and a pioneer of ministry in the Australian outback, Sydney James Kirkby.

St Benedict

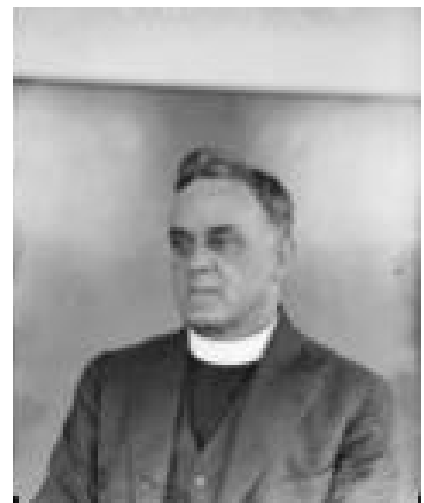
Benedict was born around the year 480 into a distinguished family in central Italy, studied at Rome, and early in life was drawn to monasticism. At first he became a hermit, but seeking even greater solitude and discipline, withdrew to a cave in the mountains for some years. He had a vision of gathering various families of monks into one "Grand Monastery" to give them the benefit of unity, fraternity, and permanent worship in one house.

For the new community, he wrote a *Rule* that prescribed a life of liturgical prayer, study, manual labour, and living together in community. In the course of the Middle Ages, all monasticism in the West was gradually brought under the *Rule of St. Benedict*. Benedictine asceticism is known for its moderation, while Benedictine charity is unfailingly generous, especially to the poor and those in special need.



Sydney James Kirkby was a pioneer of outback ministry in Australia. Born in 1879 in rural Victoria, he was ordained for the Diocese of Bendigo until in 1911 he settled in Sydney. He taught at Moore Theological College, and became increasingly concerned about the lack of an evangelistic spirit among the students and graduates of the college, whose conservative outlook was almost entirely confined to teaching biblical literacy, and emphasising personal piety.

In 1920 Kirkby was appointed "Organising Missioner" of the new Bush Church Aid Society. He worked hard to overcome antipathy to the work of Bush Church Aid, and oversaw a huge expansion of the church's evangelistic work outside the cities, training missioners in Sydney and Melbourne; bush nursing sisters were organized in 1922 and bush deaconesses in 1925; hospitals and hostels were opened in the far west of New South Wales and in South Australia and mission vans pressed into service; and an 'aeroplane mission' began in 1928.



Kirkby was appointed as an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Sydney in 1932, and exercised a popular and much respected outreach to city workers from the city church of St Philip's, Church Hill, until his early death in 1935 at the age of 56. The BCA's Kirkby Trust provides direct relief of sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability or helplessness in rural and regional areas of Australia.

8. Meditation on the Rule of St Benedictine

Chapter 6. Restraint of Speech

Let us follow the Prophet's counsel: I said, I have resolved to keep watch over my ways that I may never sin with my tongue. I was silent and was humbled, and I refrained even from good words. Here the Prophet indicates that there are times when good words are to be left unsaid out of esteem for silence. For all the more reason, then, should evil speech be curbed so that punishment for sin may be avoided. Indeed, so important is silence that permission to speak should seldom be granted even to mature disciples, no matter how good or holy or constructive their talk because it is written: In a flood of words you will not avoid sin; and elsewhere, The tongue holds the key to life and death. Speaking and teaching are the master's task; the disciple is to be silent and listen.

This Chapter of the Rule is most important today when so much of culture thinks that everything must be put into words and shared. One of the great "Wisdom lessons" of the early monks was that sometimes even good and holy thoughts should be left unsaid. Today, they can be published and everyone can read them!

One of the practices that all of us should undertake from time to time is actual physical silence. We need to practice NOT saying even the good thoughts that we have, NOT communicating them to anyone. Part of this practice will show us the places and the people that stimulate us to communicate. Another part of this practice will show the strength of our desire to communicate and the strength of our own will to resist that desire.

We need to become persons who are aware of the power of words. Words shape us and form us. Words direct our attention and our energies. Words can build up and they can tear down. Even a word of truth can be destructive when it is not uttered in charity and true love.

Let us resolve to use our words to build up one another. May our silence be a joyful communion with the Lord so that we may love others more faithfully.

Philip Lawrence OSB

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 Northern California (USA); Badagry (Nigeria); Ballarat (Australia). In our national church, pray for the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn; and within the Diocese, for the parish of Elizabeth Downs.

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 Benedict, Sydney Kirkby, 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, by Tuesday evening at 5 pm.

