



“from
Warren”

The Liturgy is Greater Than My Feelings

I often say that when you don't feel like praying, still come to church. Let the prayer of the congregation carry you. Even if you can't say the words, still come. And watch. And feel. (Liturgy is like that; it is so much more than words.) One reason I say this is because the liturgy doesn't need us to be emotionally in-tune with it. We can be down, sad, broken. We can be joyful, and while this is easier, there is a trap in thinking I have to be emotionally in a good place to come to church.

One reason I say this is because the liturgy is outside of our emotional life and intrudes into it. The liturgy – words, actions, colour, symbol, art, music, singing, silence – happens whether we are there or not, and whether we can respond or not. Let the liturgy declare something to you (God's love for you in Jesus Christ) when you come to church. Don't think we have to be continually interpreting the liturgy or that our subjective inner life makes the liturgy what it is. The liturgy displays to us in word and sacrament the love of God, irrespective of how I feel. I can be happy, and maybe I feel I got more out of it, but the liturgy was the same. I might be emotionally drained, but the liturgy is still the same. Let it wash over you. The liturgy, when approached this way, takes us out of our (sometimes) self-focussed emotional life and lets God in irrespective of how we feel right then. If our society is tending toward a kind of narcissism attending the Sunday liturgy is one antidote to the problem.

WARREN

Pastoral Care at St Columba's:

A living experience of Christianity.

“Jesus’ healing ministry was not just a demonstration of power but most of all an expression of God’s love and compassion for humanity.... His healing ministry was part of his broader mission to proclaim the kingdom of God and bring restoration to all areas of our lives..., and bring hope to those who desperately need it.”

Pierre-Alain Giffard

Pastoral care is an ancient model of support, a living tradition of which we are a part. Everybody needs it in various ways at different times and all are able to give it at some time, in some form. In parishes it can be understood as a series of supportive connections and circles that build relationships which in turn sustain us in the face of challenges, through loss and grief, crises and transitions.

In the extended St Columba's community, pastoral care is given and received in fellowship groups, welcoming, social activities, worship, hospitality, ministry groups and prayer. Formal pastoral and spiritual care includes healing ministry and the sacraments.

Although there are some ethical boundaries, pastoral care takes place in a variety of locations including local cafes, hospitals, aged care facilities, in private homes and by telephone.

At St Columba's the concept of parish pathways (in, out, across and deeper) is also helping us to identify gaps and opportunities for increasing engagement with individuals, families and groups in order to build the sense of belonging that is the foundation of pastoral care.

“For the most part people do not require professional help; they simply need to be cared about. By putting in place pastoral carers and small groups, churches can practise the love for others Jesus called them to display. By being a loving community in this way the church will be carrying out one of its most essential tasks.”

From: Christopher Walker, 'Seeking Relevant Churches for the 21st Century'.

In this vein, conversations about pastoral care are ongoing and open to all.

ANN NADGE

BISHOP NEWS

See page 2



MOTHERS UNION

See page 3



Bishop News

Farewell Bishop Denise and welcome Bishop Sophie. On 20th July people from across the Diocese, Province and Communion gathered at St Peter's Cathedral to give thanks for Bishop Denise Ferguson's five years of episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Adelaide. Bishop Denise was Adelaide's first female Bishop.



Bishop Denise

On 15th August Sophie Relf-Christopher was consecrated at St Peter's Cathedral as Adelaide's next Assistant Bishop. She was previously Rector of St Jude's, Brighton, and Archdeacon of Sturt. After the Consecration Ann Nadge welcomed Bishop Sophie on behalf of the laity of the diocese. At the time of accepting her

appointment Sophie said: "I know that these are difficult times for the Church, but I believe that God has not finished with Adelaide. Our Diocese has the faithful people, strength, resources, and gifts, to meet the contemporary challenges." We wish Bishop Sophie God's blessing in this new role.



Archdeacon Sophie Relf-Christopher at a meeting before her consecration.



Peter and Philippa Wadham

Getting to know

Phillipa and Peter Wadham

Phillipa and Peter joined St Columba's parish in 2017. They had been active parishioners at the Church of the Epiphany, Crafers since moving to Adelaide from Sydney in 1986. Peter's career in banking had involved them in several moves over the years. Philippa is a chartered accountant and had her own practice at Mt Barker.

They are both now retired, and have a daughter and son in Adelaide. Travel is an important activity for both of them, and they plan to walk the Camino di Santiago later this year. Peter also plays golf, and Philippa has an interest in felting, making various garments and taking part in workshops to develop her skills.

Phillipa stands in as Acting Treasurer when Wendy is away and is also on the morning tea roster. Peter is a member of the Investment Committee and the Building Integrity Committee.

The New Coffee Machine

You may have noticed the new coffee machine and its operators after church and the opportunity to have real coffee by donation. It's a new ministry discerned by Warren and Julie. We will have the machine operating on occasion after church and at events (think of the fete and garage sales).

It has already brought together a group of people of various ages who have learnt how to operate it, and others have indicated a desire to also learn. The cost has been covered by the Rector's Discretionary Fund (at the discretion of the Rector) as are the ongoing costs. (You could ask me why sometime.) Coffee is by donation as the parish is not covering the costs of the coffee etc. Morning tea after church won't be affected as the machine is on a trolley, so it will be wheeled out when we have volunteers wanting to use it. (Instant coffee and coffee pots will still be available in the supper room as usual.)





Community Event - Making nesting boxes

Third Thursday Coffee

It is one of the ironies of our time that so many people are lonely, yet here at St Columba's there are many ways to stay connected with other people. And not all of them involve coming to church! Second Sunday Lunch each month is one example, as is the Coffee, Craft, And Chat group. Another addition to the repertoire of gatherings is the recently inaugurated Third Thursday Coffee at 11.30 (on the third Thursday of the month) at Caffe Buongiorno after the 10.30 Communion Service. We normally arrive there by 11.30am, but you can grab a table beforehand for those coming from the service. All welcome.

Art at Church

The accompanying photo shows an art work created by Margie Begg. Margie particularly enjoys painting her family and has completed a number of still life pieces. Her beautiful Rose painting, displayed here, next to one of the Cross, reminds us that love, death and life are intertwined.



Helen Swan (right) at MU



Mary Handley

Mothers' Union at St Columba's

In July, Mothers Union enjoyed as guest speaker Helen Swan, who shared some of her experiences as a School Principal in Shenzhen in the Pearl River Delta, North of Hong Kong in Southern China.

Helen was keen to show perspectives of China that are not often shared. Shenzhen is a subtropical 'Green city' established 45 years ago. There are many sites preserving village history and culture. Levels of recycling are very high and in Helen's school, each School Blazer is made of 35 recycled plastic bottles.

During her nine years as Principal of the Oasis Group of Schools, Helen was responsible for administering educational pathways including the U.K. curriculum, Chinese

language and culture and Chinese Mathematics. A highlight of her time in China was attending the 2018 Port Power footy game in Shanghai.

Helen is pictured here with Lynette Hawes and Dorothy Hudson. She looks forward to retirement in Adelaide, close to her mother Nancy Swan.

And in August, we celebrated Mary, Mother of the Lord and Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union. This Sunday morning celebration at the 9.30am service has become a

regular feature of our liturgical calendar. The dedication of the two Marys to God's kingdom inspires us with thanksgiving for these two significant women. To begin the service Mary Handley told the story of Mothers' Union and its continuing life around the globe. (Most people don't realise how big it is around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia.)

Worship Services

Sundays:
8.00 a.m. BCP Eucharist
9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion

Weekdays:
Thursdays: 10.30 a.m.
BCP Eucharist

Fridays: 9.15 a.m.
Morning Prayer
10.00 a.m.
Bible Study



SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE:

Tuesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Message of the Day by Warren.

Wednesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Evening Prayer

Thursdays at 5.00 p.m.: Reflection
You can always watch these at a later time if you wish.

PLAYGROUP: 10.00am
Columba Playtime in school term time.

PARISH PRIEST:

The Reverend Dr Warren Huffa
email: rector@columba.org.au

PASTORAL MINISTRY WORKER:
Ann Nadge

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND
OUTREACH WORKER:
Julie Ascher-Ellis

PARISH OFFICE:

8272 7266
email: welcome@columba.org.au
Usual opening times:
Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Friday 9.00 - 11.00 am

PRIEST'S WARDEN:
ANN NADGE

PEOPLE'S WARDEN:
MARK ENGELHARDT

**ST COLUMBA'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
HAWTHORN**

website: www.columba.org.au

101 CROSS ROAD HAWTHORN

If you do not wish to continue receiving "The Messenger" or if you wish to receive it by email, please advise us as through contact details shown here.

For St Columba's Day

Above all clamour and strife.
Nothing was lost when exiled
Columba left his troubled land
as windstorms and rising waves
beat against his fragile craft
to Iona's perilous shore.

Nothing is lost on those wild days
if above all clamour and strife
like Columba we follow
His voice "Let us go across
to the other side. Peace. Be still."

Online Donations

Cash seems to be disappearing from our pockets. Who hasn't been caught at church without cash? St Columba's has purchased a new Tap & Go machine for donations by card rather than cash. It allows for several different amounts of money and is designed for open plate or casual donations. It does not replace pledge donations. The machine and its simple instructions are at the back of the church. We will be using it for any event where not relying on cash will be useful. For example, the Fete and Garage Sales. And donations for the coffee machine.



Reflecting on Prayer.

Prayer is being present with God. Touching the hem of God. Recent readings have reminded us about the concept of "exchange" through which God's healing power enters us and the outpouring of love and grace leads to healing and fulfilment. The woman touching the cloak of Jesus is an example.

Prayer is more than hopeful self talk. In prayer, the processes of confessing, asking, seeking, trusting and waiting hold us in the presence of God. During prayer, there is an exchange that involves paying attention to our inner experience, a process of reflecting, sculpting, reframing our thoughts and emotions, asking to be heard and stilling ourselves to listen.

During prayer we touch the hem of God, pass on our vulnerability and God's healing power enters us. Often the exchange is beyond words, although liturgy, our

understanding of scripture, or our own relationship with God, shape the experience. The giving presence of God enables transcendence. Each time we let go of the hem, we are changed. Over time, through grace and gratitude, we change the way in which we face our vulnerability, our limits, our contradictions. And healing becomes possible.

In the face of vulnerability and hopelessness, to touch the hem of God in prayer, to exchange weakness for strength is to assert that hope is real and even that God's will be done. As George MacDonald, nineteenth century Scottish poet and minister wrote:

"My prayers, my God, flow from what I am not; I think (your) answers make me what I am. Like weary waves thought follows upon thought, but the still depth beneath is all thine own, and there thou mov'st in paths to us unknown." Ann Nadge

DIARY DATES 2024

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1: Archbishop's Visit

Thursday 5:
Investment Committee

Monday 9: Mothers' Union

Tuesday 10: Sanctuary Guild

Thursday 12: Diocesan Clergy Forum & Gathering here

Wednesday 25: Parish Council

Friday 27: End of school term

Monday 30: Mothers' Union combined meeting

OCTOBER

Saturday 12: Parish Fete

Monday 14: School Term starts

Mothers' Union Friday 18 –
Sunday 20: Diocesan Synod

Wednesday 23: Parish Council

NOVEMBER

Garage Sale Month!

Nov 9-10 & 16-17.

Wednesday 27: Parish Council

Saturday 30:
Diocesan Ordinations

DECEMBER

Sunday 1:
Congregational budget meeting

**ST COLUMBA'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
HAWTHORN**
The Messenger