



*"from
Warren"*

God's Word Written

When we say the Bible is the Word of God, what do we mean? We say something similar to conclude the readings in church: "For the word of the Lord." What we don't mean is that God was the author of the Bible in the same way Harper Lee wrote To Kill a Mockingbird. It's not one or the other, as though if God is the author, then no human can be involved. We also don't mean that the Bible is written half and half, half by God and half by a person. (E.g. God took the place of the human mind to use the human hand.) God is not the author in that way. We might at this point introduce some other words to speak of the writing of the Bible and God's authorship. Words like 'inspiration', or that God 'guided' the writing of Scripture. These words allow us to conceive of God's authorship differently than Harper Lee's authorship of TKAM. I'm convinced that Scripture is God's word written, and that it is entirely appropriate to say at the end of a reading from the Bible, "For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God." There is much more we could say. But even these few thoughts mean that we can say the Bible is written by people without in anyway dismissing God's authorship as well. If God can be simultaneously divine and human as Jesus, or if God's will is most effective in my life when God's will and my will are united (not half and half, so to speak), then it doesn't require much theological imagination to get a glimpse of the Bible's authorship as divine, without in any way disqualifying human action (and vice-versa).

WARREN

For more of Warren's work see his blog at <http://classic-theology-new.blogspot.com.au>

Speaking Christian:



from the
Archbishop of
Canterbury's
Address to the
Church of
England Synod.

We have a common language, but it is not a human language. In the Acts the Christians are physically scattered, by persecution. By the move of the Spirit, they remain gathered spiritually to anoint those who will lead evangelism, and they gather new Christians as they scatter the Gospel.

There is a dialectic of gathering and scattering. Even in the times when the church has been sinfully and cruelly divided, wreaking havoc on one another in war and hatred, somehow God has prevailed, as he is so much greater than us, and the gospel has gone yet further. A crucial difference between Babel and Pentecost is that the scattering is not a result of different languages but of Spirit-led human action established out of the Pentecostal and catholic gathering.

The dialectic of scattering and gathering

has produced a divine synthesis of a spiritual gathering amongst physical scatterings. The reality is we are scattered to gather those outside the life of the church.

For that to work, we must all speak Christian, because that is our true language, a language of signs and wonders, of words spoken, of symbols, of actions and self-sacrifice.

At Pentecost the gospel is proclaimed – but it is by God's grace in a way that the truth of Jesus is heard in each person's language, and therefore their culture.

It is an incarnated gospel, real to each person not by their linguistic talent but by the action of the Spirit who comes to them.

For that to be true the people who are needed are those who are not trying to make something of themselves but are seeking to – in all things – live in the light of God.

Our banner photo

The painting of a Strelitzia by De Henshall was exhibited in the SALA exhibition at Living Choice last August.



L'ARCHE (THE ARK)

L'Arche supporters in Adelaide first met in 2013.

We were drawn together by a common vision of establishing community for people with and without intellectual disability. We became incorporated in 2015 and accorded project status by L'Arche International.

We had opened our first community home in January 2022. We value the support of St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, Clarence Gardens. Community gatherings are held regularly at St Francis; our community weekend occurs every January

L'Arche Adelaide Annual Community Weekend was held at St Columba's Parish Centre on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd January. The break out rooms were used for small drama group preparations and both big rooms were used for separate meetings and activities. IT support provided by Warren and Ann was excellent.



L'Arche at St Columba's

The kitchen catered to a revolving group of people who chose to come to different activities and days. At most times there were up to 30 people: those members of L'Arche with disabilities, their families and coordinators along with members of the L'Arche board.

Being glorious weather, the evening cricket and BBQ were held in Heywood Park close by and then the group returned for a banjo/mandolin concert performance. On Sunday morning L'Arche joined the St Columba's 9:00 service and that was a happy occasion for all.

■ Wendy Jeffrey

Commissioning of School Pastoral Care Workers.

St Paul, writing to the Churches in Rome, reminds us in Rom 12:4-5

"For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them."

On February 5th, PC Workers Bethany (Westbourne Park), Julie (Mitcham) and Emma (Urrbrae) were commissioned before the congregation, their supporters and staff from Schools Ministry Group (see snapshot of their website) and the Mitcham Inter Church Council. A short interview process enabled us all to understand the uniqueness and challenges of ministry in state schools. Prayer points were gathered for each of the workers including Catherine (Mitcham Girls) who was unable to attend.

■ ANN NADGE

What we do

We support young people and their communities to discover Purpose, Value, and Hope.

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Chaplaincy Services

SMG Chaplaincy is a wholistic approach to nurturing the wellbeing of whole school communities, providing pastoral and practical support in times of need.

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The Wellbeing Classroom

The Wellbeing Classroom is a framework to drive student attendance and engagement in learning. It incorporates trauma responsive practices and Kimochis®.

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SMG Life Matters

The presentations on offer range from interactive workshops, full school presentations, and live music shows. They can be booked with or without Christian content, and align with key aspects in the Australian Curriculum, allowing for easy connections in the classroom.

SMG Education

SMG Education offers online, livestream and face to face courses for Professional Development and lessons that can be used in the classroom (K-12).

BISHOP JEFFREY'S NEWS ABOUT Newton College

THE COLLEGE IS FULL THIS YEAR AND WE WILL HAVE A FULL STAFF FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS.

FR LUSCOMB BERA HAS RETURNED, HAVING COMPLETED A BTh. AT THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE IN PORT MORESBY

We also welcome Fr Newton Ekoda, who comes to us with a newly minted Master's degree. I am looking forward to working with this team, and hopefully, seeing them bond together.

Theology in places like PNG must be holistic. I find myself drawn more and more into areas like health and community development. Last year we completed the rebuilding of a new primary health-care

clinic on the college grounds, serving the surrounding villages. A nurse's house has been renovated, as well. We are also working in partnership with Anglican Health and Oro Nickel, to facilitate the development of more clinics between Oro Bay and Kokoda.

I hate to see the children suffer and one of the chronic maladies that gives them much grief is scabies. The government health

program does not provide treatment and the existing treatments of ointment miticides involve a regime that is difficult for poorer people to maintain. We are expecting Dr Warren and Dr Julie Weightman from Adelaide to join us for a time in 2023. Warren is planning a pilot program for the oral treatment of scabies, along the lines of what has been implemented in other parts of the Pacific.

The Memorial Garden

The many plaques on the Memorial Wall are a record of people who have been connected with St Columba's in some way. Some have their ashes interred in the garden and some are commemorated just with a plaque. The place for an interment is prepared by our "Holey Men", Justin and Philip. A recent

memorial service was held for the daughter of Brett Martin, and her baby son. Stewart, Rosemary (now Taylor) and Brett were all members of the Youth Fellowship here and their parents were active parishioners. If you would like information about the procedures for the Memorial Garden, please contact the office.



The Holey Men



Stewart, Brett and Rosemary Martin

December at Columba's

December is usually busy for Christmas, and there were some extra activities last year:

Charles Jarrad, son of Deborah and Matt, was baptised.

A team of people filled hampers for distribution by Anglicare, with goods supplied by parishioners and households in the area.

Julie arranged an Event for children to make their own Christmas Decorations.



Charles's Baptism



Preparing Christmas Decorations

Services at Easter

THURSDAY 6TH APRIL
(MAUNDY THURSDAY):

10.30 a.m. Eucharist
7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY 7TH APRIL
(GOOD FRIDAY):

9.00 a.m. Good Friday Service
10.30 a.m. Family Service

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL
(EASTER DAY):

6.30 a.m. New Fire, Baptism Vows,
Holy Communion
9.00 a.m. Baptism Vows & Holy
Communion



BUSY AT PLAYTIME



THE READING CORNER

Columba Playtime

Columba Playtime has continued to support children from birth to school age and their families on Friday mornings at 10 am. Children are accompanied by parents or grandparents, and we have one great grandparent attending. The morning is busy with music, stories, craft and free play as well as a snack for the children and morning tea for the adults. A new addition this year is our reading corner which is already a success.

JULIE ASCHER-ELLIS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND OUTREACH WORKER

Worship Services

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

Weekdays:
Thursdays: 10.30 a.m.
BCP Eucharist
Fridays: 9.30 a.m.
Morning Prayer



SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE:

Sundays after 5.00 p.m.: First part of 9.30 service.

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
0438 988 448
email: rector@columba.org.au

PASTORAL MINISTRY ASSISTANT:
Ann Nadge 0402 830 521

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND OUTREACH WORKER:
Julie Ascher-Ellis 0429 672 457

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 0402 830 521

PEOPLE'S WARDEN:
Neville Haar 8272 3813

ST COLUMBA'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HAWTHORN

website: www.columba.org.au

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ST COLUMBA'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HAWTHORN
The Messenger

Living Beyond the Days.



In his 1953 poem Days, Philip Larkin poses the question, "Where can we live but days?" He goes on to say: "Ah, solving that question/Brings the priest and the doctor/In their long coats/Running over the fields"

If we think of Larkin's question as a daily version of "the meaning of life" question, our answers are probably not so different from pre-pandemic 2019. It's just that having been challenged, we are probably more tuned into our reasons for holding these beliefs and we have found different expressions of them.

How, then, in the face of such a challenge as Covid-19, have many of us been able to respond to the bigger picture of "where can we live but days?". Larkin's feint mockery of priests and doctors running to help gives way to a shared, deeper search for interpretation and understanding of our circumstances from medical and spiritual leaders. With their guidance, we can live both in and beyond the days of any particular season.

History and Scripture have taught us to expect the unexpected and when it happens, we grapple for new understandings. Our reading of Genesis in the early months of the pandemic reminded us that spiritual struggles are part of the human condition. Like so many biblical characters, we so often lose patience in trying to exert our own human will to gain some control over our struggles. C.S. Lewis noted the difficulty of handing over "our wishes and precautions" and that "following Jesus... is far easier than (what) we are all trying

to do instead." So what do we struggle with? And what do we do about it?

A 2014 research article in *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* describes six domains of religious and spiritual struggle, including our beliefs about God and the nature of our personal relationship with God; our struggle with the cause of negative events; our concern or interpersonal conflict about negative experiences with religious people or institutions; doubt; ultimate meaning and lastly, our moral struggles.

Without a pathfinder of faith, these challenges could be overwhelming. It is through Jesus's experience of isolation, suffering, death and resurrection that we understand the basis of our faith. In prayer, we focus with God on our struggles, knowing that we can only "see through a glass darkly". With this awareness of our limited understanding, Paul reassures us: "Now I only know in part, then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." Through prayer, spiritual support and our faith pathfinders, we can live in and beyond these days. I also appreciate what Thomas Merton says about a sustained process of "creating reflections and awareness" for "helping life live itself in us".

ANN NADGE

DIARY DATES 2023

MARCH

- Monday 13: Mothers' Union
Tuesday 21: Men's Group
Wednesday 22: Parish Council
Thursday 23: Investment Committee
Sunday 26: Annual Vestry Meeting

APRIL

- Thursday 6: Maundy Thursday
Friday 7: Good Friday
Sunday 9: EASTER DAY
Tuesday 11: Sanctuary Guild
Friday 14: End of School Term
Tuesday 18: Men's Group
Saturday 22: Garden Party
Wednesday 26: Parish Council

MAY

- Monday 1: School Term Starts
Monday 8: Mothers' Union
Tuesday 16: Men's Group
Wednesday 24: Parish Council