



The Abbey Church Epistle

1-63 The Abbey Place, Caboolture Q 4510 (Ph: 5495 1565)

August 2014

Today is Peace Sunday. Once again I find myself pondering on the real meaning of peace and just what genuine world peace could mean to six billion plus people alive today.

For sadly greed, misuse of power, self –serving politicians of all persuasions, and international jealousies have turned into tragedy the lives of so many innocent helpless people – those we see on our television screens at news time.

Good people everywhere are confounded by the question “Although I pray for world peace, does a time come when I have little option but to take up arms to fight for that elusive peace?” At the end of the Great War of 1914-1918 nations pledged to never again plunge the world into chaos. How quickly were those promises forgotten, and the horror of world conflict once more a reality? Jesus’ promise of leaving His peace with us, obviously represents something different. He made that promise shortly before being seized in the Garden of Gethsemane, and subsequently was crucified.

The peace we must seek for in this world must have its origin within our own individual spiritual journey, deep within those struggles in our personal lives, which threaten our inner peace. And inner peace must sometimes be a conscious effort of will to choose to see things differently. We are all individually and collectively on the same underlying search – a search for happiness, contentment, *peace*.

Some people, indeed some nations, believe that happiness and all that it means, comes only with having power over others, amassing wealth and resources, and being the most ‘important’ The list goes on endlessly distracting our minds and spirits from the extraordinarily simple truths preached by a Man in Galilee long ago.

May the Peace of God, which passes all understanding maintain your minds and hearts in the Way of Christ Jesus.



Shalom, Fr George.

AUGUST



- 3 Sunday Services
(Peace Sunday)
- 5 Benediction 7.15pm
- 10 Sunday Services
- 13 Women’s Morning of Prayer 9.30am
- 16 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia
- 17 Sunday Services
- 18 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm
- 21 Benediction 7.15pm
- 23 FOTAM Talk
- 24 Sunday Services
- 30 Picnic at Pemberley
- 31 Sunday Services

SEPTEMBER (quick look ahead)

- 8 Church BBQ
- 11 Confraternity Meeting
- 13 FOTAM Floor Talk
- 14 Father’s Day
- 21 All Souls Sunday
- 22 Museum School Hol Program M-F
- 28 All Saints Sunday
- 29 Museum School Hol Program M-F

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate their birthday in August!



Sunday Services

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 6.45pm Evensong
- 9.15am Sunday School
(1st and 3rd Sun)

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. MLK

The Gothic Church of Our Lady of the Snows



The Gothic Church of Our Lady of the Snows, founded in 1397, is one of the grandest sights to behold in New Town.

The Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV planned for the Church to be the grandest and tallest in Prague. The unusual name of the church comes from a 4th century legend when the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream of a Roman merchant. She told him to build a church where he will see snow in the morning when he awakes, confused, as it was in the middle of summer, the merchant slept on. When he awoke he found the

Esquilibrium hill covered in snow. Shocked and surprised, he had the first Church of Our Lady of the Snows built on the very same site.

The Communists shut down the church in 1950, and so the lovely structure sat in silence for 40 years, until reopening.

A huge THANK YOU to any of our Church Members who voluntarily and willingly gave of their time to help out before, during, and after the Medieval Festival events – Banquets, Kids Day and the Tournament weekend. May God bless you for the service and support you gave.

Why is the dove a biblical symbol of peace?

- First, a dove appears in the story of Noah and lets him know that the destruction of the flood is over. “Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and then sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.” (Genesis 8: 8-12 NIV)
- Second, a dove was a symbol of The Holy Spirit. “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)
- Finally, Jesus used the dove as an example of innocence when he gave directions to his disciples. “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Join Us In Prayer

We continue to pray for those who are sick and more particularly this month Sister Clare, Sister Hilda, Sister Helena, Lindy Whitchurch, Bill Sutherland, Leonie Jones, Elsie Kreasch, Ethel Mills and Bill Woods.



Live among men as though God were watching – Talk to God as though men were listening.

The Lady Jane Grey

A story is told of Lady Jane Grey, before she became the young nine-days 'Queen of England'. She was brought up very piously.

One cold winter's day at her country estate she dressed herself in rags, hiding her face with a shawl, and went round with a basket begging at the houses of her farmers and tenants. Some sent her away angrily, others gave her stale rubbish; only at a poor labourer's cottage was she taken in to the fire and given some fresh cake.

Next day all these people received an unexpected invitation to the manor-house. On the dining table there awaited them an equally unexpected dinner – stale crusts for one, a rotten apple for another, raw carrots for a third, an empty plate for someone, and so on. Only the labourer and his wife were served with good helpings of roast beef and plum pudding. Then Lady Jane came into the hall and said "Yesterday I went to you disguised as a beggar to try your charity. Today you have the same food served to you that you gave to me." Consider that in the next world you will be served in the same way. Rev F H Drinkwater.

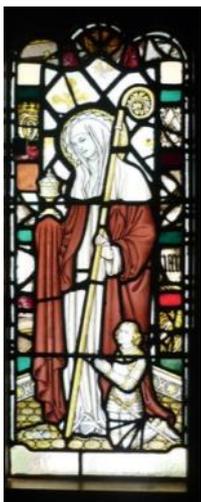


PRAY FOR PEACE

Difficult things can cause us to ask "Why did this happen?"
But if we are trusting in Christ we never need to ask "How could He let this happen?"

God may never reveal all His reasons to us, but He has revealed His character to us.

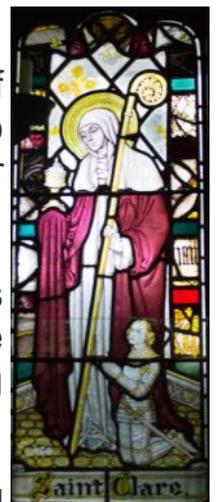
He NEVER makes mistakes, is NEVER uncaring and He NEVER separates Himself from our need. **Roy Lessin**



St. Clare

In our Church on the Northern side there is a panel of stained glass of St Clare pictured on the right. This window was conserved to commemorate Reverend Mother's 90th Birthday. Reverend Mother had a special devotion to St Clare.

During St. Clare's life, it was said that the power of Clare's prayer was credited with saving Assisi on two occasions. The first involved Clare raising the Host up in a window, thereby causing Frederick II's invading troops to fall back. Our stain glass window depicts this incident.



When Clare was 18, Francis of Assisi came to preach in Assisi. Inspired by his words, Clare asked Francis to help her in dedicating her life to God. She took vows on March 20, 1212, marking the beginning of the Second Order of St. Francis.

Clare became the abbess of San Damiano in 1216, and, while spending her days doing manual labour and praying, she began dedicating much of her time to changing the governing rule (established by the pope) of the order from the Benedictine spirit to one of the newly established Franciscan rule. (10 years after Clare's death the order would be renamed the Order of Saint Clare.)



Through me let there be kind words,
a warm smile and a caring heart
Through me, let there be a willingness to listen
and a readiness to understand
Through me let there be a dependability,
steadfastness, trust and loyalty
Through me let there be compassion,
forgiveness, mercy and love
Through me let there be every quality I find, O Lord in Thee.

The Abbey Church Guild

The Guild raises funds to further the ministry of your church.

The Abbey Church Guild Inc utilises all income raised for:

- Maintenance and improvement of the Church and Hall
- Provision of consumables, vestments etc for the Church
- Pastoral humanitarian assistance to individuals
- Promotion of social interaction and Christian fellowship
- Charitable assistance to the wider community.

*A special welcome
to all those who are
attending our
church for the first
time.*

Phantom Breakfast - More information to come about the funds raised from the phantom breakfast after the next Guild meeting.

CHURCH NEWS

- Welcome back to Steven and Naomi Jones and their family who are here on a short holiday after their move to Mongolia where they will be living for the next few years.
- We welcome Sr Anne and her daughters back from their trip overseas, which culminated at the Commonwealth Games.
- Sadly Chris Otley passed away on 18th July. Chris spent a great deal of her time helping with the catering for Wedding Receptions in the 80's and 90's and supporting the Church in many other ways. Her funeral was held in the Church and we extend our sympathy and prayers to her family and friends at this time of grief. May she Rest in Peace.
- Kate Strong (Fr Thomas' daughter) celebrated her engagement to Dean West just recently. They will be married on 11th April next year in our Church.



Vale - This month of July we are remembering the souls of our dear friends and loved ones – Bill Robertson, 4th Aug, 2004, Elsie Hubble 28th Aug, 2008, Joan Ahon 31st Aug, 2008, Margaret O'Shannessy 30th Aug, 2012

Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals - For the month of July we've had 17 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 1 Funeral.

Church Camp - Don't forget our camp coming up in October - we'd love to see you there!