



The Abbey Church Epistle

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

July 2014

In the history of mankind, the concept that God our Father in Heaven is a kind and loving Being, Who only wants the best for us, is really a comparatively new one.

Ancient religious thought mainly contemplated God as a Destroyer of enemies, capricious and sometimes regarded as someone who was not very nice. He was seen to send plagues, disasters, pestilences to helpless humanity.

Jesus came to show us that we have a loving Father, a God who is all Love. Once we are able to grasp the concept that everything about God and His relationship with us is based completely in and around this awesome fact, we may begin to understand something of this God of ours, Who actually shares our sorrows, grief and pains – even to the extent of becoming human and living with us, in the person of Jesus.

In a very real way, God is sharing our wounds, our heartbreak, our anguish, and is embracing us at every moment, even when we think no one cares or knows what we are experiencing. Just as Frank Anderson writes in the song *Strong and Constant* .. “Through your pain you will discover Me”... we come to realize that it is indeed a shared journey, every single step of the way!

Slowly rising out of the darkness on our journey back to God we come to realise and accept that we really are God’s precious children, always loved, always embraced, always enfolded in Love, whether the journey seemingly takes us through Hell or Heaven, we are never lost, no matter how dark the night.

As we proceed on this wonderful journey called *life*, let our hearts be uplifted, let words of kindness come from our lips, as we manifest the knowledge that we are forever filled and surrounded by God’s Love.



My love as we travel on together, Fr George.



JULY

- 2 Anniversary of Reverend Father’s (JSM Ward) passing
- 5 Abbey Medieval Banquet
- 6 Sunday Services
- 8 Kids Medieval Fun Day
- 10 Benediction 7.15pm
- 11 Knighting Ceremony
- 12/13 Abbey Medieval Tournament
- 13 Sunday Services
- 20 Sunday Services
- 20 Church BBQ
- 21 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm
- 10 Benediction 7.15pm
- 27 Sunday Services
- 31 Confraternity Meeting

AUGUST (quick look ahead)

- 3 Peace Sunday
- 16 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia
- 23 FOTAM Talk
- 30 Picnic at Pemberley

THE ABBEY CHURCH GUILD

(MAY) Income: \$87.00

Expenditure: \$872.92

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



Sunday Services

9.30am Holy Communion

6.45pm Evensong

9.15am Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sun)

When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure. Anon



Reverend Father J S M Ward

2nd July was the anniversary of Reverend Father J SM Ward who was the founder of the Community in England.

This is a photo of Reverend Ward and the original Church in Barnet England which was moved from Margate

(England) to their small property along Park Road. It contained some of the stained glass and artefacts that we enjoy in the Abbey Church today.

Realize that you cannot help a soul unless that soul really needs help and is ready to be helped. I tell you to send that soul nothing but love and more love. Be still and wait, but be there when that soul turns for help.... Eileen Caddy.

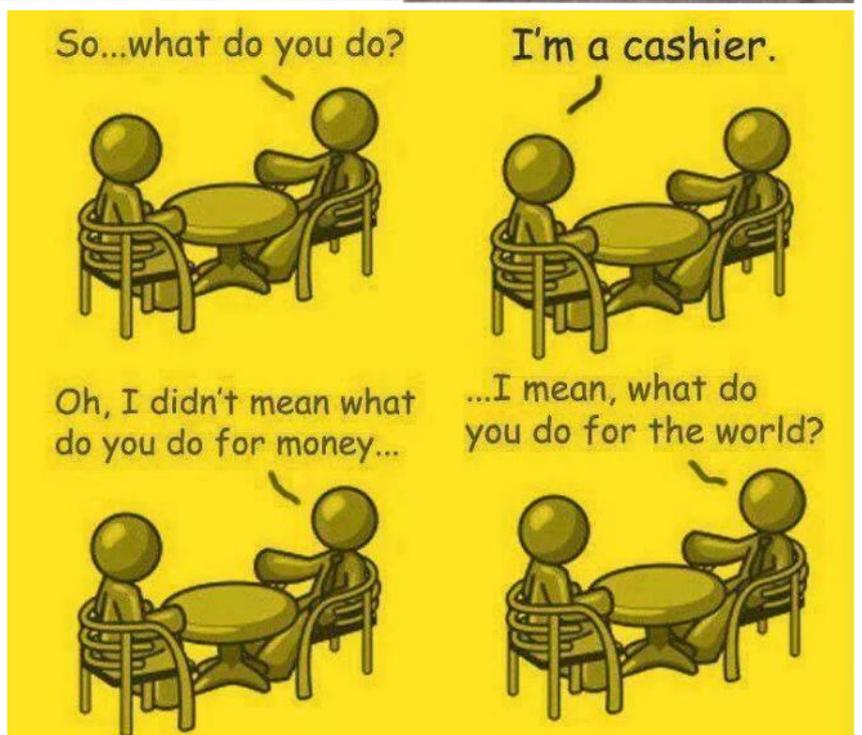
CELEBRATE

16th July, 1965 – the Community arrived here in Caboolture, from Blackheath in NSW. It's now 49 years ago! The property was called St Michael's as it was placed under his protection. At that stage only the little fibro house which was later called St Raphael's existed.

A site was cleared for the Church and Fr Francis demolished this Fish and Chip shop as wood for the building.



We learn
Humility through
accepting
humiliations
cheerfully.
MOTHER TERESA



The feast of the humility of Our Lady, 17th July

Wherever she went, the Blessed Virgin was a bringer of joy: *For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy*, says St Elizabeth, referring to John the Baptist with whom she was then with child. Hearing such praise from her cousin, Our Lady replied with words which have become that most beautiful hymn of jubilation: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*



In the *Magnificat* is to be found the deepest meaning of true humility. Mary considers that God has regarded *the low estate of his handmaiden*. Thus, *He who is mighty has done great things* in her. On this scale then, one of grandeur and humility, is passed Our Lady's entire life. She is not to be seen amidst the palms of Jerusalem, nor – excepting the first one at Cana – at the hour of the great miracles. But she doesn't flee from the degradation of Golgotha: there she stands, 'juxta crucem Jesu', by the Cross of Jesus – His Mother. She never sought the slightest personal glory.

The virtue of humility, so evident in Our Lady's life, is truth, the true recognition of what we are and are worth in the eyes of God and of our fellow men. It is also an emptying of ourselves to allow God to work in us with his grace. It is the expression of the depth of the human spirit; it is a condition for its greatness. Humility is founded on the awareness of our position in the eyes of God and on the wise moderation of our always excessive desires for glory. It should never be confused with timidity, faint-heartedness or mediocrity.

Join Us In Prayer

We continue to pray for those who are sick and more particularly this month Del Hudson, Vaughan White, Shane Pearce, Maria la Spina, Rick Kemp, Sister Clare and Coralie Martin.



St. Bonaventure

In our Church we have some lovely wooden carvings. One on the road side wall is one of St Bonaventure. He was a great Franciscan saint and theologian, who heard that the Pope intended to make him a Cardinal. He fled from Italy, but the Pope summoned him back and sent two messengers to meet him with the Cardinal's hat.

They found him at a friary near Florence. He was washing up after dinner, and they held out to him the hat there and then. "You must excuse me, my hands are dirty" he said. "Please hang it there" (he pointed to the branch of a tree close by) "and take a walk in the garden till I have finished my work." When the dishes were all washed up he picked up the hat with much sorrow and went to thank the messengers. Our carving depicts St Bonaventure wearing his Cardinal's hat.



Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best. Henry Van Dyke

CHURCH NEWS

Congratulations - to Sr Joy.... She has just become a great, great, grandmother!

Vale - This month of July we are remembering the souls of our dear friends and loved ones – Kate Olivier 2nd 2013, Michelle Webber 8th 2008, Paul Wallace 13th 2012, and Joyce Robinson 28th 2012.

Thanks - to all those who participated in the Request Evening. It was a wonderful evening singing a variety of spiritual songs including some of the old favourite hymns. An enjoyable evening for those who joined in!

Divine Father - Last Monday and Tuesday we celebrated the Festival of the Divine Father with four services. We commenced the Tuesday morning Service at 6.30am greeting the sunrise.

Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals - For the month of June we've had 12 Baptisms, 1 Wedding and 3 Funerals.

Church Camp - Do you want to relax, unwind and get back to nature? Then come along to our Church camp in October - we'd love to see you there! (more details on flyer)

Phantom Breakfast - The Abbey Church Guild is hosting a Phantom Breakfast. It's a breakfast you have when you don't have a breakfast! Basically, a donation is made to the Abbey Church Guild in lieu of getting out of your nice warm bed to come to a fundraising breakfast. More details found on the enclosed donation envelope. If you would like to participate please return your envelope by July 20th to Sr Hilda (Treasurer).



GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING

As it was such a nice day the priest called the church to say that he was too sick to take the morning service that Sunday. He loaded up his fishing gear and went down to the beach.

God, watching from above, didn't think he should get away with this. He called one of the angels over to watch what He was going to do. The priest cast his line and immediately caught a 100kg fish, the biggest he had ever seen in his entire life, let alone caught!

"I thought you were going to punish him," said the angel, disappointed.

"I have," replied God. "Who is he going to tell?"