



# The Abbey Church Epistle

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September 2014

# SPRING



This week we have celebrated the first day of Spring, that time of year which still holds something special about it despite the materialistic age we live in, when the ancient cycles of the earth season after season, no longer seem so important. In many ways we have lost touch with not only Mother Earth, but also our awareness of God and the marvellous creation we live in and are part of. In ancient times, the rhythm of Life was keenly felt and feted in song and dance, ritual and ceremony, as they gave thanks for the renewal of Life seen all around them, and even for us today, we may feel God's love for all His creation if we but pause for a moment and give thanks for the wonder of new Life renewing, revitalising all things bright and beautiful, in this amazing place God has created.

Of course Spring doesn't wait for the first of September, that arbitrary date we have set to begin our season. The trees have already sent out new growth, and flowers are appearing. And Spring doesn't wait for the birds to finish practising their melodic trills, the baby kookaburras to learn how to laugh properly instead of funny little squawks. And in the same way God does not wait for us to manifest great talents or spirituality before he calls us to help spread his message of Hope and Love. In fact God never asks us about our ability strangely enough, He only asks about our availability!! So are we prepared to make ourselves available so we can be used by Him to help bring about that spiritual Spring, which even now is dawning on the earth, despite the coldness of fear which some would hold onto still, in parts of our world.

So for us to be able to be used by God, we only have to say; "I'm available!!" Use me in whatever way you think is best. For He doesn't wait for us to show this quality or that talent, He knows we have it already within us, and it is always time for Spring. "The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang the best!!" [Henry Van Dyke]

Springtime Blessings! Fr. George.



## SEPTEMBER

- 7 Father's Day
- 9 Consecration of the Church 1967
- 10 Women's Morning of Prayer 9.30am
- 11 Confraternity Meeting
- 13 FOTAM Floor Talk
- 14 Sunday Services
- 14 Church BBQ
- 15 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm
- 18 Benediction 7.15pm
- 21 All Souls Sunday
- 22 Museum School Holiday Program M-F
- 28 All Saints Sunday
- 29 Museum School Holiday Program M-F

## OCTOBER (quick look ahead)

- 5 Heavenly Hierarchy Sunday
  - 6 Blessing of the Pets 3.15pm
- Please encourage your friends & families to join in our Pet Service.*
- 11 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia
- Church Camp - (Oct 18th & 19th)
- 25 FOTAM Lunch & Floor Talk
  - 26 Festival of Christ the King 6.45pm

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



## Sunday Services

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

## DAD JOKES.... Oh dear!

- I heard there was a new store called Moderation. They have everything there!
- What did the mountain climber name his son? Cliff.
- I was thinking about moving to Moscow but there is no point Russian into things
- I cut my finger chopping cheese, but I think that I may have grater problems.
- A termite walks into a bar and asks "Is the bar tender here?"
- What's Forest Gump's Facebook password? 1forest1
- I gave all my dead batteries away today... Free of charge.

### CHURCH NEWS

- Last month Alan de Prada celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Congratulations Alan on achieving this milestone!
- The Community arrived on the property at St Michaels in July, 1965. Some of the wood for the original Church came from this shop which Fr Francis was allowed to demolish. The Church was completed and consecrated on 9 September, 1967.
- The Christ the King picture has returned to the Church after being restored.
- We have just had the Church re-carpeted and with a few adjustments it will look great. Thanks to the Abbey Church Guild and the Abbey for providing the funds.
- Congratulations to Del Hudson. We have been praying for Del and she is now the proud mother of little Edward Hudson (Merv and Marion are very proud grandparents!) We thank God for his safe delivery.
- **All Souls Sunday 21 Sept** - Please give the names for your loved ones who have passed away to Higher Realms to Sr Anne so that we can pray for them on this special day when we remember them and thank God for them in our lives.
- **Vale** - This month of September we are remembering the souls of our dear friends and loved ones – Graham Cobb (3 Sept 1998) Brother James (11 Sept 1976) Shirley Llewellyn (13 Sept 2001) Gerry Ruygrok (20 Sept 2005) Tina Esders (20 Sept 2011) Mel Burger (28th Sept 2012)
- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of August we've had 13 Baptisms and 2 Weddings and 3 Funerals.
- **Church Camp** - Don't forget our camp coming up in October - we'd love to see you there! Many people arrive on the Friday and stay for 2 nights, however anyone is welcome to camp up for a BBQ & sing song on Saturday. Just bring along something to share.



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

Every father should remember that one day his son will follow his example instead of his advice. Charles F Kettering.

## CHURCH NEWS cont...

- **Website** - The Church website is now live! Please take some time to visit it and have a look around - we would love your feedback. The Photo Gallery is still 'under construction', however if you have any digital pictures of the church or functions held in the church (weddings/baptisms etc) please feel welcome to email them through and they can be considered for the Gallery.
- The web address is [www.abbeychurch.com.au](http://www.abbeychurch.com.au) and the email address (for photos and feedback) is [stmichaelschurch@bigpond.com](mailto:stmichaelschurch@bigpond.com)



## FROM THE SYNOD

The Synod is the ruling body of the church and its members are:

1. The Clergy
  2. The First Order members;
  3. The Second Order members;
  4. The Third Order members.
  5. Six lay members nominated each year
- Fr George is the Chairperson of the Synod and this year Sr Lucy has been nominated as Secretary and Sr Hilda as Treasurer. If you have any questions about the Synod, please don't hesitate to ask.

### FROM THE ABBEY CHURCH GUILD

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

To keep this little ship sailing, the following information is provided for the month of JULY:

Income \$426.28  
Expenditure \$170.00



**Today is Father's Day,  
so take your time...  
don't rush...  
just enjoy the day!!!**

Dear God:

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, Dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. AMEN

Author: Father Ronnie Knott of Rhodelia, Kentucky



FOR EPISTLE ENQUIRIES

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## FATHERS OF THE BIBLE

When it comes to the challenging vocation of fatherhood, several fathers in the Bible show what is wise to do and what is not wise to do. At the end of this list, you'll find God the Father, the ultimate role model for all human dads. His love, kindness, patience, wisdom, and protectiveness are impossible standards to live up to. Fortunately he is also forgiving and understanding, answering fathers' prayers and giving them expert guidance so they can be the man their family wants them to be.

**Noah - A Righteous Man** - A man who clung to God in spite of the wickedness all around him. What could be more relevant today? Noah bravely carried out the task God assigned to him. Modern fathers may often feel they are in a thankless role, but God is always pleased by their devotion.

**Abraham - Father of the Jewish Nation** - What could be more frightening than being the father of an entire nation? That was the mission God gave Abraham. He was a leader with tremendous faith, passing one of the most difficult tests God ever gave a man.

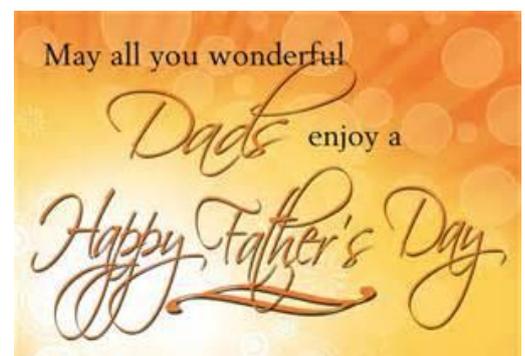
**Isaac - Son of Abraham** - Many fathers feel intimidated trying to follow in the footsteps of their own father. Isaac must have felt that way. His father Abraham was such an outstanding leader that Isaac could have gone wrong. From Abraham he learned the invaluable lesson of trusting God. That made Isaac one of the most favored fathers in the Bible.

**Moses - Giver of the Law** - Moses was the father of two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, yet he also served as a father figure to the entire Hebrew people as they escaped from slavery in Egypt. He loved them and helped discipline and provide for them on their 40-year journey to the Promised Land.

**King David - A Man After God's Own Heart** - One of the great strugglers in the Bible, David was also a special favorite of God. He trusted God to help him defeat the giant Goliath and put his faith in God as he was on the run from King Saul. David sinned greatly, but he repented and found forgiveness.

**Joseph** - Surely one of the most underrated fathers in the Bible, the foster father of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Joseph a righteous man, and Jesus must have loved his guardian for his quiet strength, honesty, and kindness.

**God the Father** - God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, is the father and creator of all. Jesus showed us a new, intimate way of relating to him. When we see God as our heavenly Father, provider and protector, it puts our life in a whole new perspective. Every human father is also a son of God, the constant source of strength, wisdom, and hope.



# Happy Fathers Day!