



The Abbey Church Epistle

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

November 2014

Last Sunday we remembered particularly, Christ's promise that He would come again to earth, and we reflected on how He would see the world today, 2000 years later. Would He wonder if His message long ago of peace between individuals, countries and nations had changed the way we are? Had the life which for love of us was sacrificed on Calvary's cross been worth the anguish? And would He be unsure of His welcome if He returned tomorrow?

Of course, these soul-searching queries must be responded to by each and every one of us. We cannot continue to blame society, our upbringing, our governments or the power-brokers of the world, if we consider that most people would answer negatively to these questions; rather we must seek deep within our souls for the answers unique to ourselves, to place before the King of Peace when we come into His presence.

At this time of year, becoming aware that Christmas is only a few short weeks away, we must stop our busyness, even if briefly, to turn our thoughts to Jesus and His promise.

For all His promises are sure, and come to pass in God's good time - time which is much different to the way we note the passage of the passing years. But as surely as He came to earth so long ago as a babe in Bethlehem, He will once more walk our streets, and bless our homes, our families and our friends, as He did before.

So as we commence to prepare ourselves for the Mystery which is Christmas, let us also prepare for all that which lies in the future; the day when over the troubled earth, the supreme and eternal King shall come to reign for all nations, peoples and tongues.

Love and blessings, Fr George.



NOVEMBER

- 1 Sunday Services
- 9 Sunday Services
- 9 Church BBQ
- 12 Women's Morning of Prayer (9.30am)
- 13 Benediction (7.15pm) Last one for the year
- 16 Sunday Services
- 17 The Abbey Church Guild (7.15pm)
- 20 Confraternity Christmas Break-up
- 23 Sunday Services
- 30 Advent Sunday
- 30 Sunday Services

DECEMBER (quick look ahead)

- 6 Quiet Day
- 11 Christmas Lights Bus Trip
- 21 Carol Service and Supper
- 24 Midnight Mass
- 25 Christmas Day Service (9.30am)
- 31 New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Service (6.30pm)

Sunday Services

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

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

CHURCH NEWS

- **Chairs** - There are still some metal chairs for sale. They are a bargain at \$5 each – sturdy but need a new coat of paint.
- **Blessing of the Pets** - Although we didn't have many pets this year it was still a lovely Service of thanksgiving for the animals God gives us, that become a really important part of our families. Father George also performed blessings at the College, where he was introduced to some very 'interesting' pets!

- **Church Camp** - The Camp was a great success with about 20 of us enjoying the Saturday night BBQ and sing along. Thanks to all who came and thanks to Sr Hilda and Fr Hugh for organizing the Sunday morning breakfast. Although we had to celebrate the Eucharist service in the lounge room of one of the units because of the weather, Fr Paul performed a lovely peaceful Service. Date Claimer for next year's camp is Friday/Saturday/Sunday 16/17/18 October 2015.
- **The Abbey Church Guild** - Received a Community Benefit grant for the removal of the old roof tiles and the construction of a new Church roof. This will occur sometime early in the New Year. We give thanks to God for his abundant blessings to us through this successful grant application
- **Vale** - This month we celebrate the Anniversaries of Fr Francis and Reverend Mother 's calling to Higher Service. It's been 14 years since Fr Francis was with us and we think of think of him particularly on 10th of November and thank him for his amazing commitment to the Work of Christ the King here at St. Michael's. Reverend Mother passed away on 18th of November 2012 and we thank her for her loyalty to the work and her faith in God's guidance for this Work. We pray that the memories we have of them will continue to inspire us into the future.
- **Church BBQ** - This happens on the second Sunday of every second month. Date claimer for the next one is 9th November. A great opportunity to catch up with each other as we don't have Baptisms that Sunday. Many thanks to those who work in the kitchen preparing the salads and for Br Edward who always seems to find himself cooking!
- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of October we've had 4 Baptisms and 2 Weddings and 3 Funerals.

*** Date Claimer ***

A Medieval Christmas - join Schola Cantorum for a magical evening of Gregorian Chanting surrounded by the candlelit beauty of our Abbey Church, followed by a light supper of medieval delicacies in the hall. 6.30pm Saturday, 29th November 2014. Tickets \$30. Bookings essential.

Casting all you care upon Him: for He careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7



THE LIFE OF ST. KATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Since about the 10th Century veneration for St. Katherine has been marked in the East. Numerous churches were dedicated in her honour. She was venerated as the patroness of maiden and women students, philosophers, preachers, wheelwrights, millers and others.

She was a daughter of a wealthy pagan family of Alexandria, Egypt. She was interested in learning and loved to study deep questions of philosophy and religions. One day she began to read about Christianity and was converted by a vision of Our Lady and the Holy Child.

She was 18 years old when the Emperor Maxentius began persecuting the Christians. Fearlessly, this lovely young Christian girl went to tell him what she thought of his cruelty. When Maxentius' wife Faustina and two hundred soldiers of the guard were converted Katherine was sentenced to be killed on a spiked wheel. This is where the 'Catherine Wheel' comes from. When she was placed on it the wheel snapped miraculously in two and she was finally beheaded. All the texts of the 'acts' of St. Katherine state that her body was carried by angels to Mount Sinai, where a Church and a Monastery were afterwards built. The image shown of St. Katherine is from our Abbey Church.

"God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus." Max Lucado

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: AUG: Income \$1,237.00 Expenditure \$1,674.35

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

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Prayers for Lindy Whitchurch, Sr Maria and Br Edward who had 4 stents on 24 October.

Let us all continue to pray for peace in Iraq and Syria this month, particularly with our Australia forces supporting the effort for peace.

GOD IS LOVE



FOR EPISTLE ENQUIRIES

TEL: 5495 1565 OR EMAIL: stmichaelschurch@bigpond.com



ADVENT MEDITATIONS (2nd, 9th, 16th December)



During Advent we will be holding three meditation evenings, each Tuesday before Christmas. These are a special opportunity for you to enjoy some peace, silence and mediation time during the often hectic Christmas rush. The Church is in candlelight which brings its own special ambience of peace and God's presence. Meditations start at 7.15pm Everyone is welcome to bring along family members or friends.



QUIET DAY (6th December)

Why not come along and enjoy the peace and serenity of our Abbey gardens and Church on Quiet Day? This quiet day enables you to take time to spiritually prepare for Christmas. You can join us for a shared lunch followed by a Communion Service, or come along for the morning and quietly take time from your busy schedules. The day starts at 9.30am with a short Service. It's a day of reflection and a special quiet time of your own choosing.



EARLY MORNING COMMUNION (3rd, 10th, 17th December)

Each Advent we come together to share an early morning Communion Service at 5.30am on the three Wednesday mornings before Christmas. Come and enjoy the joyous early morning song of the birds, the beauty of the early morning, as well as a peaceful Service to start your day.

Something to think about...

A few years ago, a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention. They had assured their wives they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home, one of the men accidentally knocked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach their plane in time . . . all but one. He paused, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand was overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and he would catch a later flight home. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did. The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled apples as the crowd swirled around her. No one stopped to help her, no one seemed to care about her and her plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her and gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organise her display. As he did, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he sat aside in another basket. When he had finished he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl: "Here please take \$50 for the damage we did today. Are you OK?" she nodded through her tears. He continued on with "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly." As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him "Mister.." He paused and turned to look into those blind eyes. She continued "Are you Jesus?" He stopped in mid-stride and he wondered. He gently went back and said "No, I am nothing like Jesus – He is good, kind, caring loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place." The girl gently nodded "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me. Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister." Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing around in his mind. "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? *That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. You are the apple of His eye, even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit. Let us live like we are worth the price He paid.*