



# The Abbey Church Epistle

**JULY 2015**

This month sees the Medieval Tournament happening again, and I am remembering some years ago listening to the excited voices of children as they played at being knights and ladies. One voice stood out for me then, and still does: "Are we the goodies or the baddies?" Fundamental question! Got to know that one!

Of course, it is the question that is the basis for all the separation and marginalization of peoples, races, creeds and even families. It's the putting of people in boxes labelled 'different', 'unbelievers', 'bad' etc. And just how often do we all do that!

Studying the Scriptures, reflecting on what Jesus said and did, helps us to a different perspective of the whole business. Perhaps if we come to understand that, we will have indeed come a long way on our journey of life. Again and again He tells us that God is our Father in Heaven – He even tells us that the hairs on our head are numbered! That even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His knowledge, and that all people are precious in His sight. That the sinner is loved as much as the Saint, that He will seek for the lost sheep until it is found, and 'lay it on His shoulder and come home rejoicing'.

But He was strong as well as gentle and again and again, reproves the hypocritical leaders of society for proclaiming their own righteousness and ostracizing the poor and needy.

Last month we learned that all people are one family in God, returning Home albeit slowly. So we have to learn to separate actions of people from whom they really are – certainly we all do wrong things, but that is not a representation of who we really are. We are all children of God, and we must always remember that we are sisters and brothers in God's Almighty Family, here to help each other on the Way.

✠ God's blessing, Fr. George.

**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 May: Income \$ 297.60 Expenditure \$ 225.20



## JULY

- 9 Benediction 7.15pm
- 11 Abbey Medieval Tournament
- 12 Abbey Medieval Tournament
- 12 Sunday Services
- 19 Church BBQ
- 19 Sunday Services
- 20 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm
- 23 Benediction 7.15pm
- 26 Sunday Services
- 30 Confraternity Meeting

## AUG (quick look ahead)

- 2 Peace Sunday
- 6 Benediction 7.15pm
- 15 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia
- 17 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm AGM
- 20 Benediction 7.15pm

### 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 **July!**

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

## CHURCH NEWS

- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of June we've had 10 Baptisms, 2 Funerals and 1 Wedding.
- **Welcome Back** - Sr Joy, who returns to church this week. We thank God for her recovery from her fall.
- **Anniversaries** - During this month of July we are remembering: Kate Olivier (2nd), Michelle Webber (8th), Paul Wallace (13th), Christine Otley (18th), Andrew Male (23rd), Mercia Fingleton (25th) and Joyce Robertson (28th).
- **We celebrate - 16 July (1965-2015)** It has been 50 years since the Community arrived in Caboolture and settled on the 300 acres of land that they purchased. There are numerous stories of this event as each person has their own memories of that time. Moving from the civilization of their home in Hathill Road in Blackheath to being surrounded by Australian bushland, no mountain ranges, and a small farmhouse not large enough for all of them to fit into, was a shock to all of them. An adventure? Well perhaps once they had established themselves from having only a well for water, a copper, candlelight and no real comforts, clearing land by hand, picking up roots day after day, to moving into the Abbey in 1974, life was just plain hard and tedious. We can look back over the fifty years and thank God for his abundant blessings to us. I'm sure that Reverend Mother, Father Francis, Sr Ursula, Sr Helena and Sr Martha could not have envisaged what those fifty years would bring. We thank them and all those members of our Confraternity who have supported and helped with all the activities and events in the past so that we can continue the Work of Christ the King into the future.
- **Festival of the Divine Father** - We have just celebrated the Festival of the Divine Father with four special Services. Here is a lovely prayer that reminds us of all that our Divine Father has created for us. O God we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass. We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendour of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers. Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory. Amen



### ***What does one do in leisure time?***

***Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it?***

***Are we supposed to not do anything during leisure time?***

"Well, try it." I find that I cannot refrain from doing something for very long. I feel driven to be thinking of getting back to work again. "There is a task to be performed, it seems to me." That is the spiritual task called reflection. We need time to be reflective. We need time to go apart, be quiet, turn and look back on our lives and what we are doing with our lives. Leisure time is time to ponder, to consider, to listen to our inner voice, to get in touch with the person who lives inside our body, and to see what our self is all about. It's a time to put our self into perspective, to see what's going on before and what lies ahead, to see what I've been, what I am now, and what I yet can be." Fr Charlie St Francis' Forum

**DON'T LET  
YESTERDAY  
TAKE UP  
TOO MUCH  
OF TODAY**

## The Mouse Trap



A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the pig and told him "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers." The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

## 26 Quick Tips For Living An Inspired Life

- Ask for what you want.
- Be who you say you are.
- Care about others.
- Dare to live your dreams.
- Ease through the day.
- Find the best fit.
- Give to another.
- Hug a friend.
- Inspire someone to greatness.
- Jump over a boundary.
- Kick a bad habit.
- Leap across a fear.
- Mention something uplifting.
- Never say never.
- Open your mind and heart.
- Pursue your innermost passions.
- Quit complaining.
- Restore your smile.
- Set your sights high.
- Trust yourself.
- Use all the day.
- Value everything.
- Wait until it feels right.
- Xpress yourself.
- Yank weeds from your mental garden.
- Zoom into the now.

*"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."*

*~ Oswald Chambers*

# The Abbey Church Guild

## Cakeless Cake Sale



A bit of news we have today,  
A Cakeless Cake Sale is on its way!

In these busy days, now who would bake  
Pies or biscuits or even a cake.  
You'd be surprised, if you counted the cost  
Of materials, electricity and time lost;



Baking for a Stall is extra work  
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.  
So we thought of a plan that's really grand,  
And feel quite sure you'll understand...



In an envelope, please,  
Put the price of a cake or something nice,  
Without fuss or bother you've done your part;  
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.



Now this is the end of our little tale  
Please make a success  
Of our Cakeless Cake Sale.



**Please return your contribution by 31st July  
either personally to Sr Hilda or post to  
Secretary, Abbey Church Guild, PO Box 1099, Caboolture 4510**

**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*



### THE DARK CANDLE

A man had a little daughter - an only and much beloved child. He lived only for her, she was his life. So when she became ill and her illness resisted the efforts of the best obtainable physicians, he became like a man possessed, moving heaven and earth to bring about her restoration to health. His best efforts proved fruitless, however, and the child died. The father was totally irreconcilable. He became a bitter recluse, shutting himself away from his many friends, refusing every activity that might restore his poise and bring him back to his normal self. Then one night he had a dream. He was in heaven and witnessing a grand pageant of all the little child angels. They were marching in an apparently endless line past the Great White Throne. Every white-robed, angelic tot carried a candle. He noticed, however, that one child's candle was not lit. Then he saw that the child with the dark candle was his own little girl. Rushing towards her, while the pageant faltered, he seized her in his arms, caressed her tenderly, and asked, "How is it that your candle is the only one not lit?" "Father, they often relight it, but your tears always put it out again," she said. Just then he awoke from his dream. The lesson was crystal clear, and it's effects were immediate. From that hour on he was no longer a recluse, but mingled freely and cheerfully with his former friends and associates. No longer would his little darling's candle be extinguished by his useless tears. Written by Odain

### A SABATH PRAYER

**We** cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war; For we know that You have made the world in a way. That man must find his own path to peace. Within himself and with his neighbour.

**We** cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; For You have already given us the resources With which to feed the entire world, If we would only use them wisely.

**We** cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; For You have already given us eyes. With which to see the good in all men, If we would only use them rightly.

**We** cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair, For You have already given us the power. To clear away slums and to give hope, If we would only use our power justly.

**We** cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease; For You have already given us great minds. With which to search out cures and healing, If we would only use them constructively.

**Therefore** we pray to You instead, O God, For strength, determination and will power, To do instead of just pray, To become instead of merely to wish."

### JOIN US IN PRAYER



Please pray for Patrick Goos, Lindy Whitchurch, Bob Ferraro, Malcolm Reeves, Siena Morgan, Glad Cavanagh, Faith Robinson and Bill Wood.

### THE ABBEY CHURCH (at St. Michael's )

Anybody wishing to become actively involved in the Community is welcome to make enquiries by contacting the Church.

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Coming soon!