



# The Abbey Church Epistle

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

February March 2017

So 2017 is well and truly with us! Our first special Sunday was Epiphany, the day when we remember the Wise Men from the East bowing low in worship to the Christ Child. It is interesting to understand that these men were mystics and sages of religions far removed from Judaism, and yet they were the first to worship the Holy Child. As the year opens it is good to stop and look towards the Heavens as they did so long ago, and stand in awe and wonder of God's Almighty Creation. Like the Wise Men of old we journey on from life to life seeking different experiences –money, fame, position, and material things. However our guiding star never stops and stays over any of these. Often we lose sight of the star when the storm clouds of sin, sorrow, depression, sadness and fear hide the radiance of Truth from our vision, and we struggle onwards thinking that we are alone, until we let go of our attachments to the things of this world, which block the view of our inner star. But when after many hills, mountains and valleys we reach that spiritual Bethlehem, we discover a most surprising thing. All our journeyings, trials, striving and struggles have been to one end—to become a little child of God. This may well be the final test of the Great Initiation we call Life, to become a little child that we may enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, to be filled with child like wonder at the Beauty of Creation, to be filled with joy, knowing we need not fear, for God our Father is Love ...and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

May the Peace of the Child of Bethlehem surround us and all people this year, as we continue to work for World Peace .

Blessings for 2017

Fr George ✝

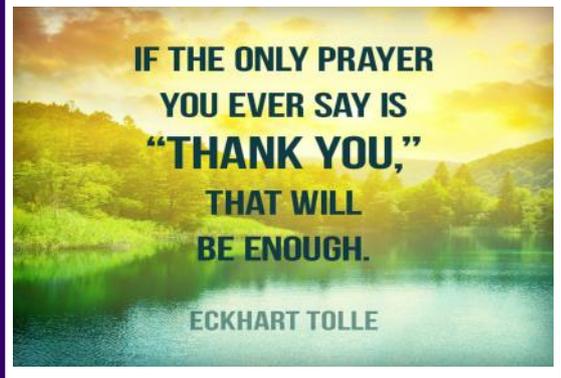
## FEBRUARY



- 5 Sunday Services
- 8 Morning of Prayer
- 9 Benediction
- 12 Sunday Service 6pm
- 12 Discussion 6.45pm
- 18 Pot Luck Picnic
- 19 Sunday Services
- 20 Abbey Church Guild Meeting
- 23 Benediction
- 25 Abbey Museum AGM and Floor Talk
- 28 Shrove Tuesday

## MARCH (quick look ahead)

- 1 ASH WEDNESDAY Early Communion for the start of Lent
- 3 World Day of Prayer
- 7 Lent Meditation
- 8 Early Communion
- 8 Women's Morning
- 9 Benediction
- 11 Abbey Museum Trivia Night
- 12 Church BBQ
- 14 Lent Meditation
- 15 Early Communion
- 18 Pot Luck Dinner & Trivia



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

Anything that you resent and strongly react to in another is also in you . Eckhart Tolle

## CHURCH NEWS

- We welcome Father Hugh and Sister Hilda back after being away travelling last year for four months
- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of December/January we've had 7 Baptisms and 3 Funerals.
- **Church BBQ** Thanks to all those who attended our Church BBQ. It's a great opportunity to share time with each other and meet new congregation members. Next BBQ is on 12th March.
- Our next discussion Evening will be held at 6.45pm after the Evening Service which will start at 6pm on Sunday 12th February. See you there!

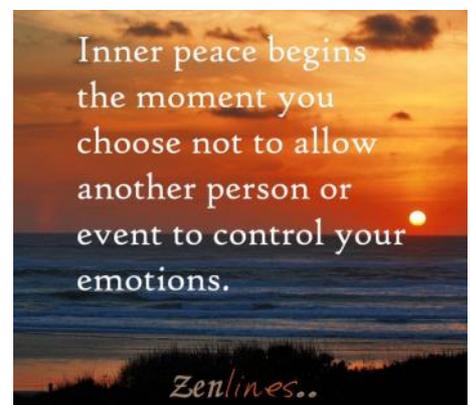
**During December we sang Christmas Carols at the Opal Aged Care Centre in Caloundra where Sister Mary Cleophas now lives. Although few in number (5 of us altogether) it was simply lovely to see the joy on people's faces as they joined in. I think Jingle Bells White Christmas and Rudolf were their favourites but I'm sure we gave them the real message of Christmas through the prayers and readings that Fr George did. Thanks Gail for the music!**



**Always try to be a little kinder than is necessary.**

**J M Barrie**

We pray for people for whom this New Year brings a deepening of despair, depression and a sense that nothing has changed for the better in their lives, with seemingly no foreseeable prospect of improvement. We pray for insight and sensitivity for those close to them, to recognise when there is a possible risk of self harm and the confidence to seek appropriate help. We give thanks for the work of all counsellors and support agencies who assist so many especially those when suicide is on their minds.



**We were able to send \$162.55 to Karuna and \$147.10 to BlueCare from donations collected at the carol singing at Christmas time. Thanks to all those singing in the Choir and those who supported us.**

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. Gandhi

Everyone is invited to attend our annual Picnic day on Saturday 18th February. It is a tradition that we take time and spend the day enjoying each other's company whilst sharing a lunch together. The venue is the picnic grounds along the Bribie Island passage at Kalmakuta Drive, off the Bribie Island Road close to the Silver Shores Caravan Park. Please come along and bring some food and drinks to share.. There are BBQ's there if people would like to use them. Starts at 11.30am. There are some tables and chairs provided but bring along your own comfortable chairs or a rug if you wish.

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Prayers at this time particularly for John Scott, Edie, Sr Catherine, Lucille and Win Watson and Claudia Barraud.



We send our love, comfort and sympathy to all those families who have lost loved ones in

the months of January and February and are remembering their anniversaries

Bill Meacham 1 Jan

Sr Florence 28 January

Brent Fitzsimons 6 February

Jim Wort 6 February

Alison Walton 11 Feb

Sr Ursula 19 February

Dave Lewis 21 February

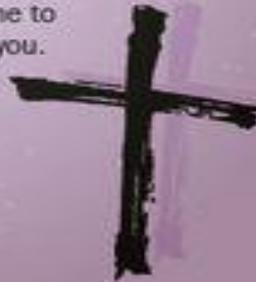
Ray Kendrick 16 March

Nell Hewitt 24 March

Ethel Mills 28 March

### A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,  
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.  
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.  
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.  
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.  
Amen.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Am I Being Unfair to You?



WOMEN'S WORLD  
DAY OF PRAYER

PHILIPPINES 2017 • POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Our congregation members are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer which will be held at the Uniting Church on Bribie Island on Friday March 3rd at 9.30am.

The Service has been written for this occasion by the World Day of Prayer Committee in the Philippines. The theme is Am I being unfair to you?

Each year the Service is focussed on a different country—last year it was the women in Cuba .

Please bring along a plate as there's a morning tea to share after the Service as well.

Please come along and join in this Ecumenical event with

the other Churches in our local area.

PREPARATION FOR  
LENT

During Lent we are holding **meditation evenings** each Tuesday at 7.15pm in the Church by candlelight. Why not come along and enjoy some quiet reflection time in preparation for the wonderful celebration of Easter? If you enjoy the early mornings we are holding the Eucharist service at 5.30am each Wednesday during Lent as well. Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, 40 days of taking stock and renewal. All are welcome.

I AM THE  
*Light of the world.*

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME  
*will never walk in darkness.*

BUT WILL HAVE  
THE  
*light*

OF LIFE.  
JOHN 8:12

ONE KIND WORD  
can change  
someone's  
entire day

The **Golden Rule**

Inner peace begins the  
moment you choose not to  
allow another person or  
event to control your  
emotions.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate/ed their birthday in **January, and February and March**



**FOR EPISTLE ENQUIRIES**  
TEL: 5495 1565 OR  
EMAIL:  
stmichaelschurch@bigpond.com