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**JUNE
JULY
2021**



The Abbey Church Epistle

Welcome to The Abbey Church. We are a welcoming, inclusive community where questions are encouraged and everyone has a place at God's table.

We hope your time with us is special and that you are able to join us after the Service for tea or coffee and some morning tea. If you are visiting from another Church or tradition and you wish to do so, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us this morning. Children are welcome to come up for a blessing as well.

A message from Fr George...

Sitting at my table, pen in hand I was wondering what words to write this month. The ever busy telephone near to me, was blessedly silent, giving me time to reflect on the special Services we have coming up this month. On 24th June we remember and celebrate the awesome fact that we are all sons and daughters of God. This is the Festival of the Divine Father when we recall in symbolism and ritual that each of us has a spark of God hidden deep within and that we are all on a tremendous journey from God back to God. It is by helping each other that we move forward on that journey eventually returning to our source that God of Love, Who supports us in every way.

At the dawn Service that we will hold on the 24th we process around the outside of the Church and enter the dark Church bringing in with us the flint and steel, those ancient tools of creating light and warmth. The ritual of the flint striking the steel and sending sparks down onto the tinder teaches us very important lessons. It reminds that we are little sparks of God confined to physical things but able to rise up through God's grace (which is another word for Love) to things of the Spirit.

I have noticed over the years of doing this ceremony that it is the small sparks that are most likely to set the tinder on fire, not the showy, larger sparks. Doesn't that tell us something! However small, weak or insignificant we think we are, God uses the weak things of the world to confound the mighty! It also teaches us that the strokes and blows of misfortune, and the difficulties that we encounter on Life's journey can be the means by which our light is made to burn brighter and illuminate the Path for others.

May the flame of God's Love burn ever brighter in our hearts.

**God's blessings to you all
Fr George.**



A life without spiritual regularity drifts through time with little to really hang onto when life most needs an anchor.

If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your path - Buddha

Some links for you....

Jack Riemar, writing about violinist Itzhak Periman's experience of breaking a violin string during a major concert, blesses us with the invitation to 'make music with what we have left'. Read the full article [here](#) and listen to him play with those three strings [here](#). May the wisdom of this extra musical selection bless you...

Laura Story sings '[Blessings](#)' composed when her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Psalm 91:Numbers 6:24-26: [On Eagles Wings](#)

[The Lord Bless You and Keep You](#)

Blessings are a constant in the milieu of Life.
The blessings which **come from the heart of Love** which greet us everywhere we look, in everything we taste, touch, smell and experience.
The blessings we **receive** from the human and non-human world.

The blessings we **give** through our lives, our prayers, our actions, our intentions.

It seems that blessings are **inextricably linked to gratitude**; for it is **from our hearts of gratitude** that we bless the world we inhabit, and **into which** we receive blessings - from whatever source, even **the deepest suffering**.

Deidre Ni Chinneidi: [I Will Sing For You](#)

Source: Christine Erskine Smith



JUNE

- 23 Vigil of Divine Father 7pm
- 24 Festival of the Divine Father
6.30am, Midday and 7pm

JULY

- 2/3/4 **Abbey Medieval Festival**
- 16 Anniversary of the Arrival to this property in 1965

AUGUST

- 1 Sing A Long in the Church Hall after a pot-luck lunch



Sunday Services during June/July

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 6pm Evening Service

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



A big thank you to all those ladies in our congregation who spend time in the kitchen baking for our morning tea when we come together to enjoy some time of friendship and fellowship after Service each Sunday... We really appreciate your love and kindness.

Good friends are like stars—you don't always see them but you know they are always there.

Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow. Albert Einstein

UNITE *for* HOPE

This year, instead of 'Biggest Morning Tea', the College is hosting a 'Walk for Hope' to raise funds for Pancare Foundation – Australians affected by upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, such as pancreatic, liver, stomach, biliary and oesophageal cancers.

As you are all aware Brother Charles is currently undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer and we would like to come together as a community to support him and others going through a similar journey.

You are invited to come to the College at 1:30pm and join us to walk a designated route with the students and College staff followed by an ice-cream (\$2.00). This event will take place on a Wednesday early in Term 3. The date is yet to be confirmed as we would like Brother Charles to be there and need to work around his treatment plan. There will also be merchandise for sale and a raffle with prizes...

Please let Sr Veronica know if you are interested in participating!

Can you spare some time?



We are inviting members of the Church community who would be interested in regularly coming down to the **Early Learning Centre (ELC)** to spend time with the children.

Over the last couple of years there has been some very interesting research about the benefits of multi-generational play for both young children and older people and it is something the Centre would love to facilitate. You don't have to do anything specific, just spend time with the children playing, reading, connecting and helping to strengthen community ties from the very beginning of their St. Michael's journey. If this is something you might like to be part of please see Sr Veronica. **We meet Monday's at 10am at the ELC.**

MORNING OF PRAYER

Why not come along to the Morning of Prayer on 11 August? Edie has prepared a lovely program for you to enjoy and participate in. *You are welcome to come, bring your friends and be part of this Morning of Prayer. Share your thoughts about your own spiritual journey with others of like mindedness. There's a lovely morning tea afterwards on the verandah of the Abbey. Starts at 9.30am Please bring a plate to share.*



May the soul of our

dearly departed friend Ashley Hoogwerf rest in peace. We send comfort and strength to Desiree, Glen, Tracey and family at this sad time. Ashley passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 15th June.

Please continue to pray for those on our sick list.



Especially at this time for
Rob Bettridge,
Rosa Wort, Cecilia Goos,
Marlene Kronk, Brian Newell, Sally Ann Chardon, Nancy Foreshow, Tonia Selman
Br Charles.

We also send Light and Peace to all those who in the world who are homeless, disadvantaged, sad and suffering from the pandemic in any way.

READINGS for
June and July
COMMUNION SERVICES

DATE		EPISTLE	READING
20 June	4th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Peter 3 v 8-15	St Matthew 5 v 43-48
27 June	Divine Father Sunday	Exodus 3 v 1-6	John 14 v 6-11
4 July		Exodus 3 v 13-15	St John 8 v 54-58
11 July		Genesis 1 v 1-3	John 16 v 25-28
18 July		Romans 8 v 14-18	St John 17 v 1-11
25 July		Acts 5 v 17-32	St Matthew 6 v 5-13
1 August	Peace Sunday	Rev 3 v 7-13	St John 14 v 27-31

Church News

On **Sunday 1 August** we are holding a Sing a long time in the Church Hall for those who love

Music and would like to participate in some singing and fun.

We will start with our usual morning tea and then move into shared pot luck lunch in the Hall. Then we'll start the *Sing-a-long!!*

The idea is that everyone will join in. If you would like to sing solos, bring along an instrument to play, supply us with suggestions of songs you'd like sung or just be there! - Please let us know so that we can put together a small program and ensure we have the Music required for Gail to play. Tell your friends to come along!

Please bring along something to share for lunch if you're coming!



When you can't put your prayer into words, God hears your heart.



Music is the prayer the heart sings!

