



St Peter's

CHURCH SOUTHPORT



Sunday 13 February, 2022 ~ Epiphany VI
Sunday 20 February 2022 ~ Epiphany VII

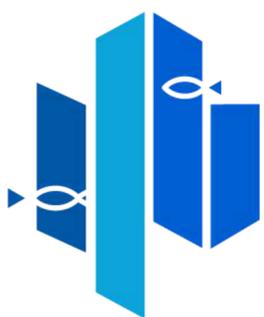
Anglican
Church Southern Queensland

Annual General Meeting

“Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Parish of St Peter’s, Southport will be held in St Peter’s Church on:

Sunday the 27th Day of February 2022 at 11.00am.”

Nominations for Parish Council close on Sunday 20th February



St Peter's
CHURCH SOUTHPORT

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows

After opening prayers:

1. The Rector's Report
2. The Church Wardens' Report
3. The Presentation and Adoption of the Parish Annual Accounts
4. Consideration and Adoption of the Budget
5. Reports from other Parish Organisations
6. Appointment and Election of Churchwardens
7. Synod Representatives - confirmed
8. Parish Nominators - confirmed
9. Parish Councillors - number established.
10. Rector's appointments to Parish Council
11. Appointment of Parish Auditors
12. Other business (requiring seven days' notice in writing prior to the AGM).
13. Reading and Confirmation of AGM minutes delegated to Parish Council

Closing prayers.

(please note: all material will be sent to Parishioners via email no later than Thursday 24 February)

Anglican
Church Southern Queensland

The Rector's Report to the Annual General Meeting of Parishioners, Sunday 27th February, 11:00 am

I commence this year's report by giving thanks to God for the faithfulness of parishioners through this second year of the Pandemic. Just when we had hoped that 2021 would be different to 2020 things got a little worse, or perhaps 'different' in a way that was not hoped for. Nevertheless, all of St Peter's have engaged positively with our ongoing commitment to each others' safety by adhering to the requirements laid down by the Diocese and I thank you most sincerely for this. This said, I would highlight a few preliminary points:

Firstly, there is a general weariness in the community. "How much more of this do we have to put up with?" is surely the unspoken (or spoken) frustration that unifies us all. We are all so keen to move on, 'to go back to way things were,' although it's been so long now that I can't remember how things used to be, if I'm honest.

Secondly, by the grace of God we at St Peter's have proven to be resilient and adaptable. Yet, for all the changes that have been thrust upon us we have not lost sight of who we are. Technology to enable online presence is now very well embedded into our weekly worship, but, with the exception of a few minor adjustments, our worship is still "us" and the technology is so well hidden that you would not know it was there unless it was pointed out to you. Our 'gentle Anglo-Catholic culture' persists despite the worst that the pandemic can throw at us (...so far!)

Thirdly, times look to be "a changin'." From a Pandemic that we kept successfully outside our borders for nearly two years to a disease that is now largely endemic – in a surprisingly short period of time – we are now required to get back to normal life while at the same time taking every care for our safety and the safety of others. Recent research done by the Queensland Chief Health Officer (CHO) suggests that many of us may have Covid 19 without even being aware of it. Our safety is now very much a personal responsibility, and you can be assured that we will continue to take every care in worship and daily activities here at St Peter's.



In this edition of the Key Notes, you'll notice that our AGM is formally announced. You will also notice that we will send out copies (via email) of all AGM reports, etc. the week prior to the AGM. We instigated this last year and folk have reported that they find this helpful. I have also placed my Rector's Report in this issue for folk to ponder and raise questions about at the AGM should they so wish. Fr Dale provides us with a thought-provoking piece on SIN (I continue to be very grateful for Fr Dale's excellent work – and generosity too – a great deal of work goes into his written work, I'm sure.

Note too the information regarding the Lenten Study series based on Rod Dreher's "The Benedict Option." I have a number of Daily Reflection notes for Lent that have been produced by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. These beautiful booklets are free – just let Christine or me know.

We're looking forward to "Shrove Tuesday" this year as a chance to get together and to enjoy pancakes and, of course, the wonderful company of our brothers and sisters.

Enjoy your reading!

Fr Don

So, what sort of year was 2021 in the Parish?

1. PASTORALIA

Even though the Omicron variant did its best to dampen down things pandemic-wise for a second year in a row, life continued in the parish with its pastoral activities and was, at times, surprisingly busy. In 2021 there were **36 Baptisms** (nearly 100% more than the previous year) at St Peter's. Note that because of the restrictions, all Baptism took place outside of Sunday Eucharists. This is not my desired mode of practice, but restrictions dictated. **22**

Funerals were undertaken, with a proportion of these conducted at Allambe and other Funeral Homes. There were no Weddings conducted in St Peter's in 2021. The number of Church Weddings has diminished drastically over recent years but the restriction imposed on border crossing made wedding planning too difficult for the few couples who were inquiring about weddings last year. Early signs indicate that there will be a few weddings, at least, at St Peter's this year (2022). **11 young people were Admitted to Holy Communion** in 2021. **2 Confirmations** took place in 2021.

Our Communicant numbers: bounced back to a reasonable number in 2021 - 4210 communicants. Of course, with social distancing restricting the number of those who can be in church these numbers are still down on previous years.

Online streaming: we do well at this point to note the impact of online streaming on our worship. Allow me to provide an example: our 7:00 am Holy Eucharist has a regular attendance of approximately 40 communicants at this time. However, this figure only represents those whom we see face-to-face. The analytics provided by Facebook indicate that during the following 7 days that same service regularly has 100 engagements. By definition this means that there have been 100 instances of "any action someone takes on our Parish Facebook Page" (this would include likes, Comments, Shares but also viewings or savings of the 7:00 Eucharist video.

While it is possible to make too much of Facebook 'analytics' I would point out that for a significant period of time after our worship service has been conducted people are still indicating that they are deriving benefit from it. Furthermore, these analytics don't include our YouTube numbers. Even though I have mixed feelings about social media and their algorithmic manipulations, I am pleased to mark the significance of online streaming in the life of our parish.

Social Media Coordinator: so impressed have I been by these figures that I asked Parish Council to employ a Social Media person part-time to manage our Parish presence in this space. Falon Cobcroft joined us in October to take on this portfolio and is doing a great job in raising our profile in the Social Media spaces.

Pyjama Parishioners: we are delighted to have a number of folk joining us online for worship on Sundays - folk whom we've come to welcome as parishioners at St Peter's, even though the pandemic keeps us apart. These folk (whom, I surmise, might well be in their pyjamas when they join us for worship online - and I'm fine with that) might be just around the corner or they could be in Vancouver Island, the UK, The Netherlands, The USA and other corners unknown. Yet, they are truly welcome!

New Faces: each year the Diocese asks for a number of statistics about Church Services and attendances over the previous year. One key question is: "How many new people have joined the parish in 2021?" This set Christine and I thinking (and counting.) We were able to list some 40 new adults and 10 children in answer to this. The pandemic has been challenging, we are all aware of that, but it is remarkable how God's grace continues to work in these circumstances, with a genuinely surprising outcome in terms of the number of new folk who wish to call St Peter's 'home.'

2. FINANCES

It is appropriate to leave more detailed discussion of finances for our Treasurer. I would make the briefest of remarks here. We have incurred a deficit in our 'Profit and Loss' account this year. With Covid restrictions it has been difficult to counter this with activities that might provide a higher profile to 'Giving' in the parish.

Ahern St and Marine Parade apartments.

Working in conjunction with St John's Crisis Centre in Surfer's Paradise, we have purchased two modest apartments for their use as 'emergency accommodation.' In effect, St John's will be our tenant for both properties and they will provide property management. They pay rent irrespective of whether or not the properties are occupied so we stand to gain financially while also providing a compassionate response to those in need. If you like, it is a practical outworking of 'the parable of the talents' since the return on our investments in ANFIN is a fraction of what rental return will be on these properties. We were able to complete the purchase of these properties on 24 December 2021 and the Ahern St property should be let as from 21 February.

Heidi Retiring. Sincere thanks must be accorded our Treasurer who has announced her 'retirement' from this position on Parish Council this year. Heidi has given many years of service as Treasurer, and we are truly thankful for her hard work and commitment to the parish. With the prospect of branching out in her accountancy work we do wish Heidi every blessing for the future.

3. OTHER EVENTS

Social events. Again, the pandemic played its role in damping down many of our social activities in 2021. In spite of this we managed to start up covid-safe tea and coffee after worship (once a month at present.)

In late June we enjoyed a **Patronal Festival BBQ** and it was the first time in 18 months that we had been able to enjoy such a social event. Sadly, with the rise of the Omicron strain later in the year other events were cancelled. We still managed to hold the annual **Fashion Parade** in late October and have some fun and games at our **Melbourne Cup** event.

Somehow, we managed to host **5 Concerts** at St Peter's in 2021. These were well attended and much appreciated after the relative isolation of the previous year. We do look forward to hosting more concerts in 2022 if the pandemic permits.

All in all, we have kept a quiet rhythm to parish life while doing our very best to keep everyone safe.



4. THANKS!

Thanks must be given to Christine Corroy for her outstanding work as **Parish Coordinator**. Christine is that vital 'glue' that holds the many elements of the parish together in harmony. She has a bewildering array of duties and tasks which she always carries out with a cheerful efficiency. The parish owes her a great debt of thanks for her conscientiousness that sees her carry out duties well beyond what she is paid to do! It is therefore with very mixed feelings that I announce Christine's intention to 'semi-retire' in 2023. Chris and Alain hope to move over to their retirement home on MacLeay Island next year, with Christine continuing 2 to 3 days a week as part-time coordinator. This ensures that the considerable body of 'corporate knowledge' that Christine has will not be lost as we seek to eventually fill her position. I am delighted that Christine and Alain are now considering a truly well-deserved retirement but there is a very selfish part of me that makes me wonder how we'll manage in the future. But of course, we will.

Alain Corroy is not one for blowing his own trumpet but his work around the parish building and grounds has been enormously helpful. In an unofficial way he has been our 'handyman' and how utterly handy he has been. Think of the Christmas Lights, The Christmas Tree, The Advent Wreath, The Hearse (the special triangular candelabra that we use at the Tenebrae service), the Projection Screen, the TV stand, the mounted TV and countless other quiet 'additions' to the parish plant that Alain has installed or created. They add up to an enormous contribution by one man and again we can but give our heartfelt thanks.

Wardens. I am blessed with truly devoted and experienced Parish Wardens. Allen, Russell and Christine, your commitment to this wonderful parish is both humbling and inspiring. The parish and I thank you.

Parish Council. Thank you for serving your parish so well in these strange and challenging times. Special thanks to Ken Lister, Chairman of Parish Council for his sage guidance through the year.

There are many other workers and volunteers in the life of our Parish, and to thank some specifically is to run the risk of insulting some by some clumsy act of omission. Nevertheless, here goes:

Thank you, Maddie and Luke, for your commitment to leadership of music in our worship. You do a great work I would want to affirm that every day of the week. Luke's deft hand on the keyboard also sees our online streaming working very smoothly and effectively!

Thank you to the Flower Ladies, whose work has been a little constrained by the pandemic but is no less appreciated for all that. Thank you, Desley and Jill, for your commitment to the Phoenix Group. Thank you to those folk who ensure that the purificators and altar linen is always clean, and a big thanks to those who have helped sanitize the church buildings Sunday by Sunday. Thank you to Allen and Ian for keeping the grounds looking so tidy.



5. PERSONAL

My seventh year. It is hard to imagine that I am now well into my seventh year as Rector of this Parish. I don't know where the time has gone, and I am beginning to suspect that the pandemic is skewing the space/time continuum even as I write (!) When I retired from military chaplaincy back in 2015, I wondered if there would be enough variety in parish ministry to keep me on my toes. Well, I needn't have worried since I always seem to find something new emerging every day in parish ministry to challenge me.

Completion of my Ph D. I was particularly proud to finish my part-time Ph D in mid-October 2021. As I write I have still not heard back from my markers. Nevertheless, after eight and a half years it was good to be able to put my pen down.

Pandemic frustrations. Like many in Australia Jill and I are frustrated that we haven't been able to visit our children and grandchildren in New Zealand. We hope to remedy that in 2022!

7. IN CONCLUSION

We should perhaps remind ourselves that there are so many people worse off than ourselves after two years of pandemic. Without smugness therefore we give thanks to God for all that we have and enjoy, praying that we will never take such things for granted.

Thank you to my wife Jill for her loving support throughout the year (especially since we were able to spend this year in the same country at least!)

Fr Don Parker

6. 2022 - LOOKING FORWARD

Tim Newton, Theological Student. Many of you will know Tim (and Stephanie and Winifred) already but Tim will be engaged in the parish in an official capacity this year as 'Theological Student.' This is part of his training as an ordinand and as a parish we are very pleased to part of this.

Young Adults Group. One of the tasks that I have asked Tim to undertake is that of establishing and running a 'Young Adults' group in St Peter's this year. He has embraced this idea willingly so watch the "Key Notes" for more details.

St John's Crisis Centre. The process of purchasing units for St John's valuable work in the community has drawn us a little closer to them this past year. I look forward to seeing how this relationship might grow and flourish in the future.

Youth Educator. I would like us, as a parish, to prayerful consideration to a part-time Christian educator in the parish. No, I don't believe that we are in a financial position to pay such a person just yet, but, by the grace of God, it may not be too distant. I recently read that the days of just letting young church-goers grow up with out intentional ministry and education are long gone. I thought that was a little extreme, but upon reflection I believe that it is something we, as a parish, must give very serious consideration to. At the moment our work with children is stymied by pandemic restrictions but in the not-too-distant future we must attempt to re-establish our ministry with youth.

Future Parish Coordinator. Realistically, I don't believe we'll ever find someone to fill Christine's shoes. Still, going forward we need to give some prayerful thought to this vital position in the parish. Please hold the future of this position in your prayers.

Readings & Collects

Sunday 13 February ~ Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

5 Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. 6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. 9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? 10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm 1

R Happy are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord.

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night. **R**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked: they are like chaff which the wind blows away; **R**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R**

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6: 17-26

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

26 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Collect of the Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Righteous God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
and you show favour to the oppressed:
instil in us a true sense of justice,
that we may discern the signs of your kingdom
and strive for right to prevail;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings & Collects ~ Sunday 20 February ~ Epiphany 7

Genesis 45: 3-11 and 15

3 Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.



Joseph pardons his brothers
Bacchiacca - 1515 AD

Collect of the Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

God of compassion,
keep before us the love you have revealed in your
Son,
who prayed even for his enemies.
In our words and deeds
help us to be like him, through whom we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



Psalm 37: 1—12, 41—42

R Put your trust in the Lord and do good

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

2 For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away. **R**

3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he shall give you your heart's desire.

5 Commit your way to the Lord
and put your trust in him,
and he will bring it to pass.

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the
light
and your just dealing as the noonday. **R**

7 Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for him

8 Do not fret yourself over the one who
prosper,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil. **R**

10 For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord
shall possess the land.

11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place,
but they will not be there.

12 But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace. **R**

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes
from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

42 The Lord will help them and rescue them;
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver
them,
because they seek refuge in him. **R**

1 Corinthians 15: 35-50

35 But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised?
With what kind of body do they come?' 36 Fool!

What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the
body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of
wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a
body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed
its own body. 39 Not all flesh is alike, but there is
one flesh for human beings, another for animals,
another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There
are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but
the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of
the earthly is another. 41 There is one glory of the
sun, and another glory of the moon, and another
glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in
glory.

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What
is sown is perishable, what is raised is
imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonour, it is raised
in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in
power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a
spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is
also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, 'The first
man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam
became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the
spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the
spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a
man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48
As was the man of dust, so are those who are of
the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those
who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the
image of the man of dust, we will also bear the
image of the man of heaven.

50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this:
flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Luke 6: 27-38

27 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

*Please pray for: Pamela H, Pamela D, Faye,
Sophie, Ken, John & Bob*



In Memoriam

*The flowers in the Church
are to the Glory of God and
in Loving memory of*

*Nola Mary Hollindale
&
Stuart Michael Hollindale*

~ Sunday 20th February 2022 ~

Given by their family

YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

ST PETER'S CHURCH SOUTHPORT

Thursdays 7pm

Starting soon

'But covet earnestly the best gifts:
and yet shew I unto you a more
excellent way.' 1 Cor 12:31 (KJV)

A Theological Student at St Peter's in 2022

Timothy Newton (and his lovely family Stephanie and Winifred) are already well known to us at St Peter's. Tim is an Ordinand- in-training at St Francis and has elected to do his Field Work at St Peter's this year. So, commencing in March, Tim will be spending up to 8 hours a week in the parish learning the practical aspects of Parish Ministry (and hopefully not learning too many of my bad habits!)

So welcome Tim! St Peter's is delighted to have you with us in this different capacity for the year.

*Tim will be leading a
'Young Adults Group' -
starting soon. More
details to come*



I don't understand it. It must be a generational thing. My beloved Doreen sometimes brings me up short with the simple statement, "Dale, you're old". Well, that's true. But my reply is, "Just because I'm old doesn't mean I'm wrong! And I'm NOT wrong! And I'm NOT grouchy! I just don't understand it! That's all!"

What I don't understand is how certain young people whom I have known since they were hours old, whom I love dearly, and whom I respect as intelligent adults, can insist there is no such thing as 'Sin'.

What?! No such thing as Sin?! Are they serenely oblivious to what's happening in the world around them? Do they know about terrorism, child pornography, mass murders, rogue nations, virulent racism, thousands of children dying each day in the squalor and hopelessness of refugee camps, whole migrations of desperate people fleeing the violence in their own countries but finding no where else to go, drug traffickers near school yards, road rage, conspiracy theories, efforts to undermine democracy, bullying, inhumanity, greed? It just goes on and on, 365/24/7!

Yes, I'm not unaware that the word 'sin' has a suspiciously religious ring to it. I've read from the social philosopher Emile Durkheim too, so I do get it. We are living in a post-modern world, and it just isn't 'on' anymore to assume there are some basic human values that everyone shares. But for heaven's sake! (Oh, I'm sorry. That expression has a religious ring about it too, doesn't it? Let me start over.) For God's sake! (No? That's even worse?). Then for goodness' sake! (Not even that? Yes, I suppose goodness is a value too.) Well, what I'm struggling to say is that surely a person doesn't have to be religious to know there's something more than just a little bit inappropriate about walking into a crowded building with a military assault rifle and killing as many people as you possibly can before a SWAT team arrives to stop you.

Fr Dale on...

SIN



But I'm congenial. There's nothing sacred about the word 'sin'. If that's what bothers people, I would be perfectly willing to scrap it and use a different word. My only stipulation would be that whatever other word we use would need to identify the same unpleasant and confounding reality 'sin' has hitherto fingered so effectively. To satisfy me, the new word would need to mean more than 'inappropriateness'. It would need to denote an irresistible compulsion, like an addiction, that hijacks our self control and induces us to engage in violent, selfish, dishonest, dishonorable, and even self-destructive behaviour.

To be honest ... ooo, is honesty a value thing too? Well never mind. I think the young people who tell me there is no such thing as 'Sin' know perfectly well there is such a thing because, having told me there isn't, they can launch immediately into reciting an entire litany of the despicable sins religion has spawned over the centuries:

the crusades, witch hunts, holy wars, suppression of women, corrupt prelates, abusive clergy, hypocrisy, intolerance, inquisitions, torture, the persecution of Galileo, mistreatment of indigenous people, and so forth ad infinitum.
I agree.

Yes, those were also Sins greatly to be repented! They qualify as sins just as surely as outrages perpetrated in the public domain do. So by drawing them into our conversation, my young people have only documented that the 'sin' they insist doesn't exist is universal and insidious enough to afflict even the most sacred of institutions. By reciting their catalogue of religious sins in the defence of their cause, they have resorted to the flawed philosophy that argues, "This is bad. But that is worse. Therefore, this is good". No, I'm sorry, but even in this post-modern world that kind of reasoning is not 'on'.



As I understand it, being in possession of the knowledge of 'good' and 'evil' is a fundamental and primary human characteristic, not an exclusively religious one. Sin and Religion are not bound in a co-existent relationship like chickens and eggs. It is clear to me that 'sin' came first, as an existing problem with which religions subsequently tried to contend. There is an ancient story that reveals a human awareness of 'sin' thousands and perhaps tens of thousands of years before any of the world's religions were founded. That ancient story contains the phrase, "God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3: 4-7).

Well, the above gives you a glimpse of the energizing discussions that sometimes take place in our family. But this one about the unpleasant and disturbing reality of Sin is not restricted to our home. It has become an animated topic within the Church family as well. As I experienced it, our effort to make the Anglican Church more relevant began in the early 1960's when young people (including me) were caught up in the effort to make the Prayer Book's enervating services more celebratory. Our Youth Group sponsored an 'experimental service' that used guitars instead of the organ and 'Folk Mass music' instead of the sonorous Merbecke chants.

Mixed reviews on those efforts! But the fad led to a new revision of the B.C.P. that included some radical changes to the General Confession. Previously we would "bemoan our manifold sins and wickedness {which we had} most grievously committed ... provoking most justly {God's} wrath and indignation against us", confessing that "the remembrance of {those misdoings was} grievous unto us" and that "the burden of them {was} intolerable". Those phrases were judged to have become intolerable, so they were summarily and synodically expunged in the new revision.

By that time the fat was in the fire and, influenced by the Second Vatican Council, the 'Liturgical Movement' was underway. What we now call our contemporary liturgies are the results. In one of our early efforts to modernise the Confession, one wag on our committee suggested we replace it with the simple phrase, "Sorry about that Chief!". We didn't! But what we settled upon, virtually identical to what is now in use in Australia, also reflects a somewhat less than vigilant concern about sin.

Yet there are still those who would prefer to have the Confession removed altogether. Their argument for doing so is thoughtful. They regard it as a downer, a blatant contradiction in an otherwise celebratory liturgy. They observe that the very word 'Eucharist' means 'Great Thanksgiving', and that a Confession interjects a jarring, depressing note into the joy.

With respect, I cannot agree.

It's not that I'm insensitive. And it's certainly not because I'm old! It's just that the Confession is a necessary factor in the Eucharistic equation. It belongs, just as surely as Holy Week and Good Friday belong as preludes to our 'Easter' celebration. You see, liturgically speaking, every Sunday is a 'little Easter'. It is the Day of Resurrection. But if we eliminate the 'downer' part on our approach to Easter, there is no victory to celebrate, no triumph over death, no remedy for Sin. There is just a hippity-hop down the bunny trail on our way to a date with a cute chick.

Dale





Looking towards Lent...

Shrove Tuesday

('Pancake Tuesday')

*Tuesday 1st March at
7:00pm
in The Parish Centre*



Ash Wednesday ~ 2nd March 2022

*"Remember you are
dust and to dust you
shall return"*



"Impositon of Ashes" 10:00 am

"The most discussed and most important religious book of the decade." –DAVID BROOKS, *The New York Times*

The Benedict Option

A STRATEGY FOR CHRISTIANS
IN A POST-CHRISTIAN NATION

Rod Dreher

Lenten Study

This Lent I will be using the

"Benedict Option" by Rod Dreher

as our key source.

My intention is to offer this as a study online once a week via "Zoom," at 4:00 pm during the Sundays of Lent. These reflection will last 1 hour.

Please let me know if you'd like an invite to this Lenten Reflection Series. Also, if you wish to purchase this book do let me know well in advance I will place an order.

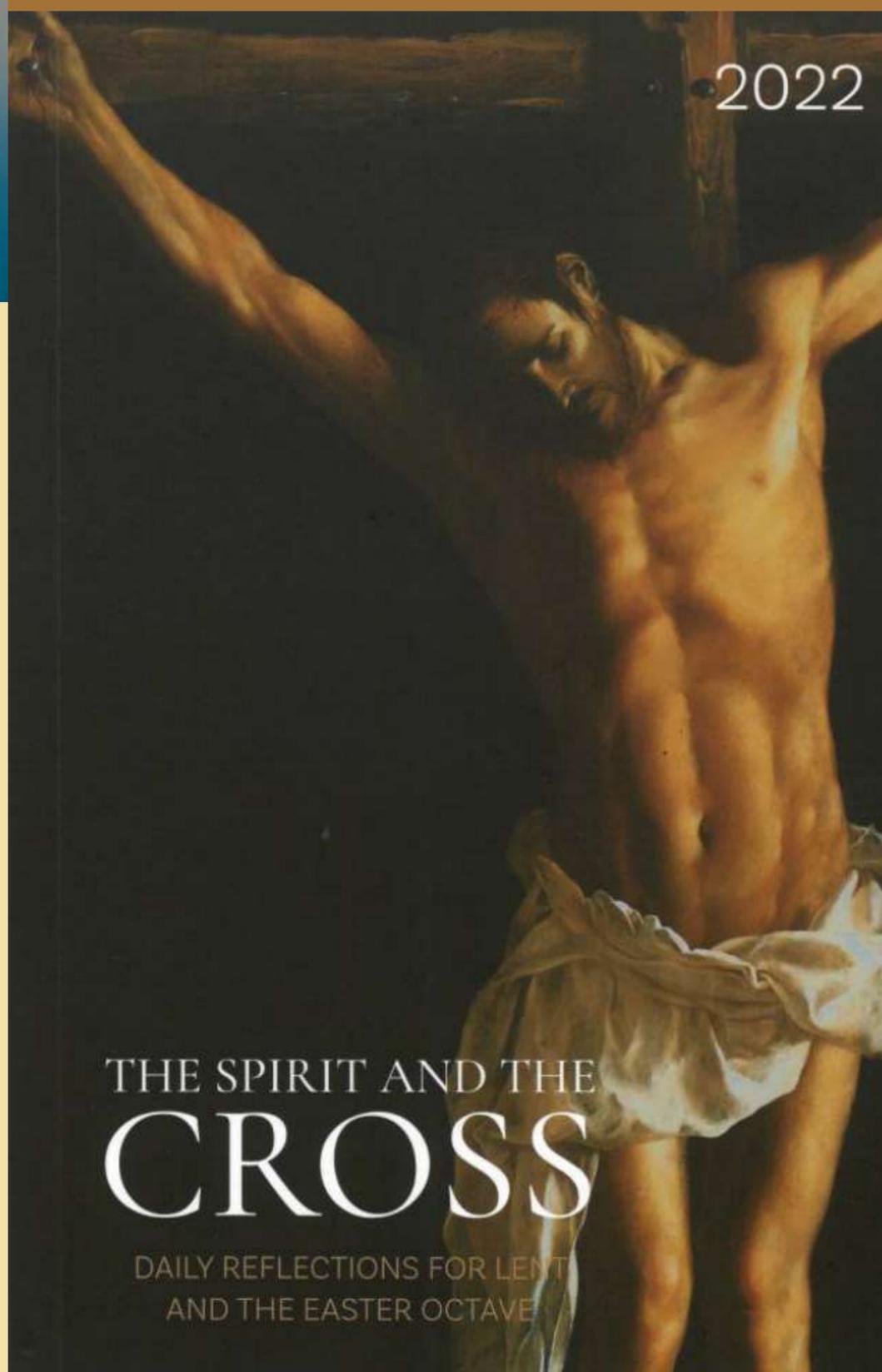
Fr Don

Lenten Reflections

"The Spirit & the Cross"

Are you looking for a daily reflection notes for Lent?

The Spirit and the Cross is a beautiful booklet prepared by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. I have a number of free copies to give away to anyone who would like one.



THE SPIRIT AND THE
CROSS

DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT
AND THE EASTER OCTAVE



World Day Of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org



World Day of Prayer 2022

**England, Wales and
Northern Ireland**

Friday 4th March, 10:00 am

Venue:

**Salvation Army
Gold Coast Temple,
157 Wardoo St, SOUTHPORT**

Concert at St Peter's

2pm, Sunday 20th March



Broadway to Bocelli

Enjoy a sparkling afternoon to lift your spirits with great Broadway hits and the best-loved songs of the world's most popular tenor, Andrea Bocelli! 'Broadway to Bocelli' will stir your emotions, and tickle your funny bone as MC Mario the Mafioso auditions Temperamental Tenors, Devastating Divas, and Sultry Singers, and the 'cast' of Les Misérables, to find the STAR of his latest Extravaganza! Invited for a return performance in 2021 by local Councils of the South West Queensland Region, Opera Eagles Nest is please to now be heading to St. Peter's Anglican Church, Southport, with a fun filled afternoon of great singing, popular music and loads of laughs.

Former Governor General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, once described Opera Eagle's Nest as a shining and rare talent with exquisite and breathtaking harmonies. Talented tenor Glenn Lorimer started his singing career in a Rock band before graduating in opera studies under the great Donald Smith OA. A Sun Aria Finalist, Glenn has performed with international Opera companies, touring UK, Europe and America. Glenn is the principal Tenor with Opera Eagle's since 2001.

Tania Edmunds is Opera Eagles Nest Musical Director and Principal Soprano. Classically trained, her experience ranges from Opera through to Popular Classics and Music Theatre in Australia and overseas.

Terri Watters extensive music theatre experience includes lead roles in Hello Dolly! Funny Girl, Oliver!, The Pirates of Penzance, Crazy for You, My Fair Lady and South Pacific, in Australia, UK, Hong Kong and SE Asia, and an Oscars Tribute show at the Sydney Opera House.

Special Guest artists include violinist Chen Yang, performing with Opera Eagle's Nest since 1999, Queensland conservatorium and Opera Queensland Pianist John Woods, accompanist with Opera Eagles Nest since 2004) and St. Hilda's show choir Senza Ragazi.

Broadway to Bocelli is performing at St. Peter's Anglican Church Southport at 2pm, Sunday 20th March. Bookings TRYBOOKING on

www.trybooking.com/BXHTT

For more information, please contact Howard Edmunds ht.edmunds@bigpond.com or m) 0439 452 541.