



*Key Notes: 22 & 29 September 2024*

# *Busy Days...*

Spring is a busy time at St Peter's. Allow me share with you an abridged version of my latest "Report to Parish Council":

## ***Introduction:***

We are now into Spring, with our "fruits of the Spirit" banners reminding us of the need to bear the fruits of the Spirit. We rightfully identify this season and new life and activity, and I would use those words to describe the 'rhythm' at St Peter's at present. It is an exciting time of the year.

## **A. A snapshot of events since our August meeting:**

1. The Twenty-six week "**Surprised by the God of Hope**" course has now been completed. I mean that in a technical sense because the last session of our 25-week course took place on Wednesday 11 September. However, we have chosen to take a second look at several of the lessons. The group agrees that many of the lessons in this study need a review to help us absorb the very dense content. I anticipate that we will need another 3 to 4 weeks to complete this recap. All the members of the study report very favorably on the study and are keen to do more.

2. **Great voluntary work continues in the garden.** Thanks to Allen, Jeff, Ian and Alain for their great commitment to keeping the grounds and buildings running smoothly and looking great. You may have noticed Ian's water-blasting of the front concrete area of the Church. Things look very 'Spring-cleaned.'

3. **Citizenship.** As announced last month, Craig and Jill have both had their citizenship approved. The good news is that they have now been advised that their citizenship will be conferred on Tuesday 1 October. [Accordingly, I would like all to join us for a celebration marking this event after our 9:30 Eucharist on Sunday 6 Oct.]

4. The "**Inquirer's Hour**" began officially last Sunday at 4:00 pm. It will continue at this timeslot for the foreseeable future. On "Sung Evensong" Sundays it will not take place. I see this time as a time of genuine inquiry that will also serve as preparation for those seeking Confirmation. I am using the Archdiocese of Brisbane's catechism book "At Home with God's People."



5. **Moore House** break in. In the early hours of Wednesday 11 September, Moore House was broken into by a group of youths. Our security cameras were not able to provide clear coverage, but a group of youngsters was heard breaking in via the main entrance. They smashed the top pane of glass in the door and climbed through, ransacking the place and stealing raffle money to the tune of approximately \$400.00. They appear to have used a stone from the garden near the Olive Street house.

6. **Olive Street lease termination.** On Thursday 12 September we received a letter from Anglicare stating that they no longer require the use of the Olive Street property.

7. **St John's Crisis Centre.** You may be aware of recent headlines in the local papers that St John's has received a donation of \$25 million from the Frizelle Foundation to enable it to build two Domestic Violence shelters. I know no more about this but hope to find out more in due course. It is too early to consider what effect this might have on St John's requirement for the two properties we currently rent to them.

8. **Music Fund.** Courtesy of an anonymous donation of \$5000 we have now established a fund dedicated to Music in the parish. This is very exciting. Its use is generally for the enhancement of music at St Peter's and the intention is to use this fund to develop the musical skills of present and future musicians who contribute to worship at St Peter's.

9. Jill and I took a few days leave in early September and were able to visit the excellent **Alphonse Mucha exhibition in the new South Wales Art Gallery.** I was pleased to share something of this in the most recent edition of the Key Notes.

10. **TSS Eucharist.** On Sunday 8 September we once again marked our very important relationship with The Southport School. This date is proving problematic for TSS as it is the first Sunday of the holidays. Mr. Andrew Hawkins (Principal) did suggest that we look at an alternative date. Sometime in May is now being considered for a new regular annual service.

### **B. Coming up:**

1. **Supervision for Clergy.** For several years now Supervision for Clergy in the Diocese of Brisbane has been mandated. A group of local clergy, me included, have met on a monthly basis to meet this requirement. The model we use is one I have used for many years, and I have always maintained that it is ideal for clergy. The local group is in agreement, and we will continue meeting as per Diocesan requirement. It has occurred to our supervisor that this method might be useful for clergy distant from local support, e.g., clergy out west, even clergy overseas and a Zoom version of this model has been proposed as a way of supporting clergy who suffer 'the tyranny of distance.' It should be noted that the local group would not be able to admit more than one or two more members, so an entirely new group needs to be created.

With this in mind I will be travelling to Toowoomba to meet with Bishop Cam Venables (Bishop of the West) to discuss creating a Supervision Group for Rural Clergy in the Western part of our Diocese. My role is limited to 'selling' the idea to the bishop; actual establishment and support for the group – should it go ahead – will be in the hands of our supervisor.

2. Later this month we look forward to celebrating the Feasts of St Matthew (22 September) and St Michael and All Angels (29 September.)

### **C. Finally:**

A few matters that will require some attention over the next month:

- As noted in last month's meeting, I have applied for a **Residential Scholarship** at Vaughan Park Retreat Centre in Auckland after Easter in 2025. They have confirmed receipt of my application. I await their deliberations.
- We are still waiting for the Diocese to sign off on the work of renewing the asbestos material in the eaves of the Rectory.

- **Leave.** Jill and I will be taking some days off in late October to escort her father back to Christchurch. I may be away for one Sunday as Jill and I hope to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary at Akaroa (where we had our Honeymoon!) This is a beautiful harbour on the southern side of Banks Peninsula. I would like to see our grandchild before she turns one also.

- **Christmas planning and preparation** is now well under way.

May God continue to bless all our endeavours for his greater glory.

*Fr Don*



# *What's been happening?*



*“The Blessing of the Fleet”  
~ Southport Yacht club ~ Saturday 14 September*





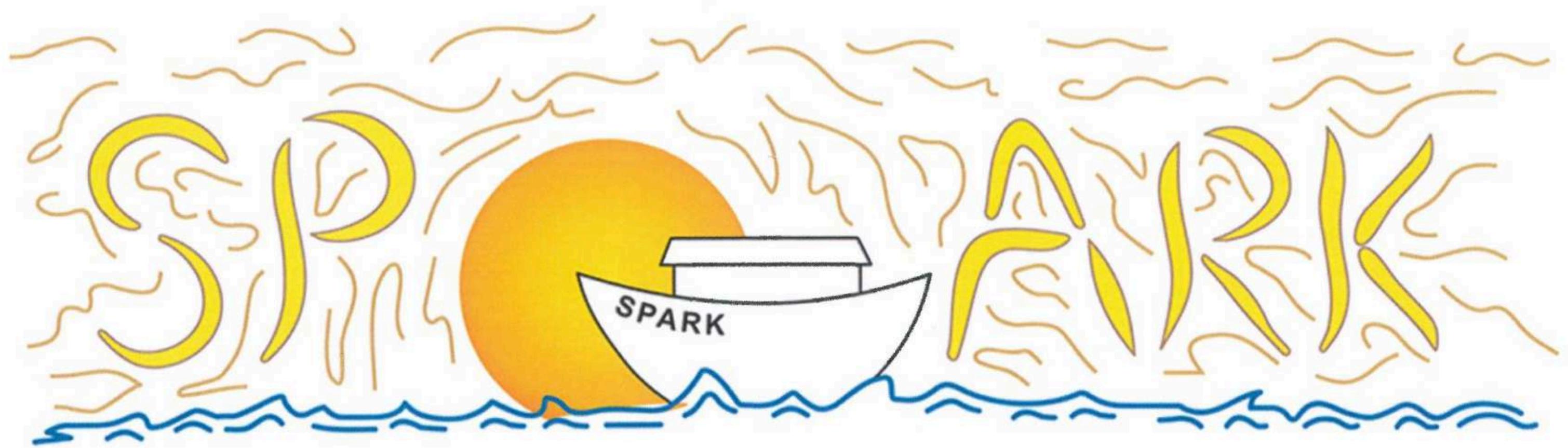
*The Wedding of Aaron & Veronica ~ Saturday 7 September*





*The TSS Cadet flag party joined us on Battle of Britain Sunday~ 15 September ~*





St. Peter's. Anglican Religious Kids

*Sunday School recommences on  
Sunday 13 October*

# Collect and readings for the Feast of St Matthew

## Proverbs 3: 1 - 6

3 My child, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments,  
2 for length of days and years of life  
and abundant welfare they will give you.  
3 Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them around your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 Then you will find favour and high regard  
in the sight of God and of people.  
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

## Psalm 19.1-6

### **R The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart**

1. The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.  
2. One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another. **R**

3. Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,  
4. Their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends of the world. **R**

5. In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his  
chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its  
course.  
6. It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the  
heavens and runs about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat. **R**

## Ephesians 4: 1-14

1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to  
lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have  
been called,  
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another in love, 3 making every  
effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond  
of peace.  
4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were  
called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord,  
one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But  
each of us was given grace according to the  
measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it is said, 'When  
he ascended on high he made captivity itself a  
captive; he gave gifts to his people.' 9 (When it says,  
'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had  
also descended into the lower parts of the earth?  
10 He who descended is the same one who  
ascended far above all the heavens, so that he  
might fill all things.)  
11 The gifts he gave were that some would be  
apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some  
pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the  
work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,  
13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and  
of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to  
the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We  
must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and  
blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's  
trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.



**St Matthew and the Angel, Guido Reni, c 1635**



**Matthew 9: 9 - 13**

9As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.10And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.11When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'12But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.13Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

*The Collect for  
Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist & Martyr*

*Almighty God,  
who through your Son Jesus Christ  
called Matthew from the selfish pursuit of gain  
to become an apostle and evangelist:  
free us from all greed and love of riches  
so that we may follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ  
in the way of self-giving love;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*~Sunday 22nd September~*

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

*Ouida Kathleen Mary Rogers*



# The Feast of St Michael & All Angels

Sunday ~ 28 September

## Daniel 7: 9-10 and 13-14

9As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. 10A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. 13As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. 14To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

## Psalm 138

**R O Lord, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, because of your love and faithfulness; **R**

3. For you have glorified your Name and your word above all things.

4. When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. **R**

5. All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. **R**

7. Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar.

8. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

9. The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands. **R**



## Revelation 12: 7-12a

7And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, 8but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. 12Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

## John 1: 45 - 51

45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ 46Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ 48Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ 49Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ 50Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ 51And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’



*The Collect of Michael and All Angels*  
*Almighty God,*  
*you govern the courses of this world*  
*by means too wonderful for us to comprehend:*  
*give us reverence before the mysteries of your*  
*providence,*  
*and grace to know the messengers of your will;*  
*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# For All the Saints:

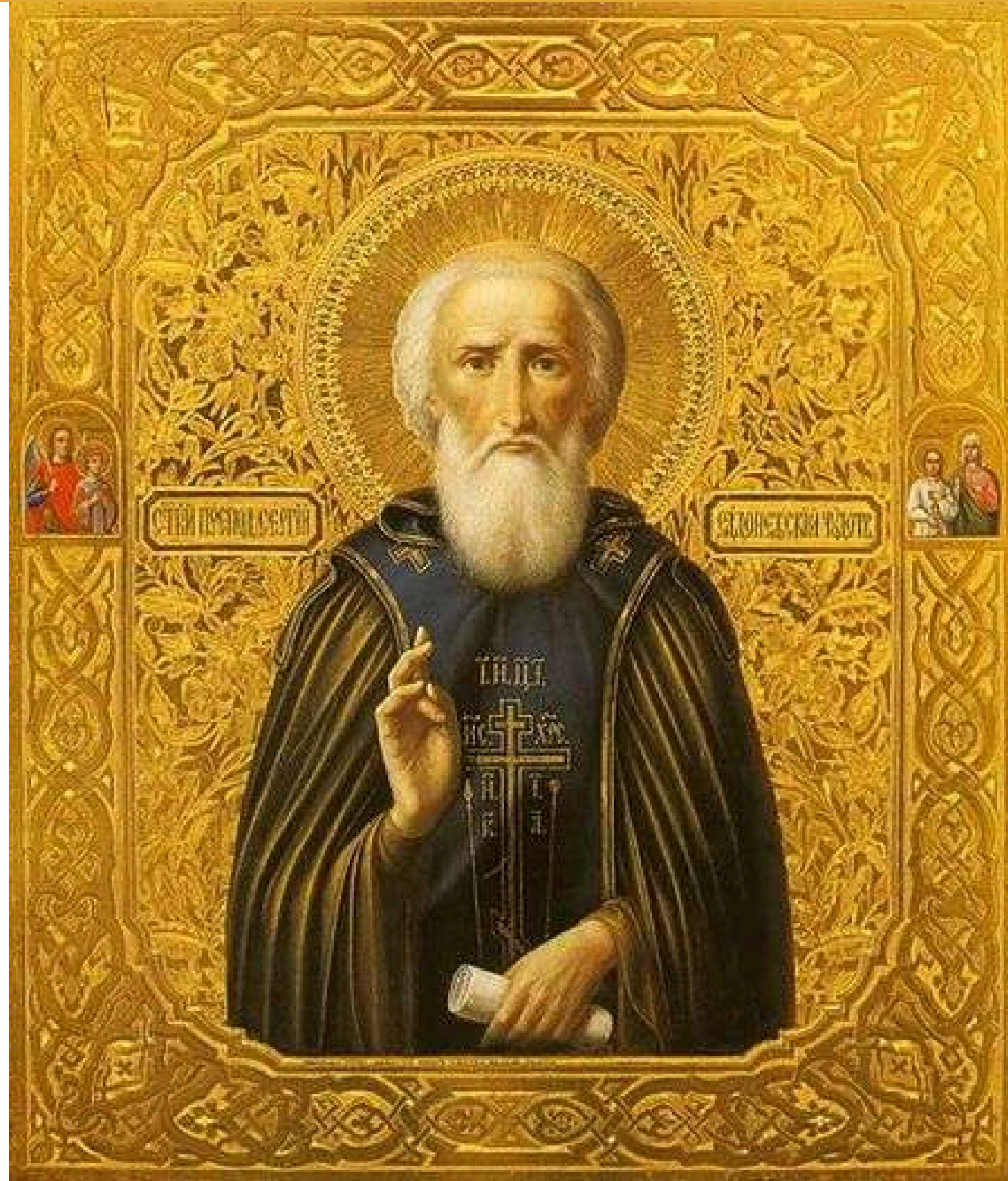
## St Sergius of Radonezh

25 September  
Abbot & teacher

One of the foremost Russian saints and mystics. Born to a noble family near Rostov, he was christened Bartholomew. At the age of fifteen, he fled with his family to Radonezh, near Moscow, to escape a campaign against Rostov by the rulers of Moscow. As their wealth was all but wiped out, the family became peasant farmers until 1335 when, after the death of his parents, he and his brother Stephen became hermits at Makovka. Stephen left to become a monk, and Sergius received a tonsure from a local abbot. Increasingly well-known as a profoundly spiritual figure in the Russian wilderness, he attracted followers and eventually organized them into a community that became the famed Holy Trinity Monastery.

He was ordained at Pereyaslav Zalesky. Serving as abbot, he thus restored the great monastic tradition which had been destroyed some time before during the Mongol invasions of Russia. Sergius was soon joined by Stephen, who opposed his stern cenobitical regulations and caused Sergius to leave the community and to become a hermit again.

As his departure brought swift decline to the monastery, Sergius was asked to return by none other than Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow. As he was respected by virtually every segment of society, Sergius was consulted by Prince Flirnitry Donskoi of Moscow encouraging the ruler to embark upon the campaign against the Mongols which culminated in the triumphant Battle of Kulikovo (1380), thus breaking the Mongol domination of Russia, Sergius sought to build upon this victory by promoting peace among the ever-feuding Russian princes and building monasteries; in all he founded around forty monastic communities. In 1378 he declined the office of Metropolitan, resigning his abbacy in 1392 and dying six months later on September 25, Canonized in 1449, he is venerated as the fore-most saint in Russian history.



### THE COLLECT

O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we, through his poverty, might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of your servant Sergius, may serve you with singleness of heart and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# St Matthew

21 September  
Apostle, Evangelist & Martyr

Saint Matthew, the first-century tax collector turned apostle who chronicled the life and ministry of Christ in his Gospel, is celebrated by the Church on September 21. Although relatively little is known about the life of St. Matthew, the account he wrote of Christ's ministry – traditionally considered to be the first of the four Gospels – is of inestimable value to the Church, particularly in its verification of Jesus as the Messiah.

Eastern Catholics and the Orthodox churches celebrate St. Matthew on November 16, along with St. Fulvianus, a prince who is recorded in some traditions as converting from paganism after Matthew's martyrdom.

The Gospel accounts of Mark and Luke, like Matthew's own, describe the encounter between Jesus and Matthew under the surprising circumstances of Matthew's tax-collecting duties. Jewish publicans, who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman rulers of first-century Judea, were objects of scorn and even hatred among their own communities, since they worked on behalf of the occupying power and often earned their living by collecting more than the state's due.

Jesus most likely first encountered Matthew near the house of Peter, in Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee. The meeting of the two was dramatic, as Matthew's third-person account in his Gospel captured: “As Jesus passed on,” the ninth chapter recounts, “he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me'. And he got up and followed him.” Matthew's calling into Jesus' inner circle was a dramatic gesture of the Messiah's universal message and mission, causing some religious authorities of the Jewish community to wonder: “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus' significant response indicated a central purpose of his ministry: “I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.” A witness to Christ's resurrection after death, as well as his ascension into heaven and the events of Pentecost, Matthew also recorded Jesus' instruction for the apostles to “go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Like 11 of the 12 apostles, St. Matthew is traditionally thought to have died as a martyr while preaching the Gospel. The Roman Martyrology describes his death as occurring in a territory near present-day Egypt.

Both the saint himself, and his Gospel narrative, have inspired important works of religious art, ranging from the ornate illuminated pages of the Book of Kells in the ninth century, to the Saint Matthew Passion of J.S. Bach. Three famous paintings of Caravaggio, depicting St. Matthew's calling, inspiration and martyrdom, hang within the Contarelli Chapel in Rome's Church of St. Louis of the French.

Reflecting on St. Matthew's calling, from the pursuit of dishonest financial gain to the heights of holiness and divine inspiration, Pope Benedict said in 2006 that “in the figure of Matthew, the Gospels present to us a true and proper paradox: those who seem to be the farthest from holiness can even become a model of the acceptance of God's mercy and offer a glimpse of its marvellous effects in their own lives.”

Caravaggio, *St Michael and the Angel*, 1602



# St. Michael the Archangel

29 September

Michael, holds a significant place in the Roman Catholic tradition. He is an Archangel, associated with courage, protection, and divine intervention.

St. Michael's presence can be traced back to early Jewish writings, particularly in texts from the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC. In these ancient texts, he is depicted as the chief among angels and archangels, responsible for guarding and caring for Israel.

In Jewish tradition, St. Michael is often referred to as the guardian prince of Israel, a protector who stands ready to defend God's chosen people. He appears in the Book of Enoch as one of the seven archangels, alongside Uriel, Raguel, Raphael, Sariel, Gabriel, and Remiel. These archangels are described as standing before the glory of the Lord.

St. Michael's holds the role of *defender of faith* and a warrior against evil. This is most vividly portrayed in the New Testament, particularly in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 12:7-12). Here, he engages in a cosmic battle against Satan, casting the adversary out of heaven and preventing him from accusing humanity before God. St. Michael's triumphant role in this battle marks a significant shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

In the *Epistle of Jude*, St. Michael is cited as an example of righteous judgment and opposition to evil. He is contrasted with heretics, as he did not hesitate to rebuke Satan over the body of Moses, saying, "The Lord punish you!" This passage underscores St. Michael's unwavering commitment to God's divine justice.

Within Roman Catholic tradition, St. Michael the Archangel holds a special place. He is often invoked as "Holy Michael, the Archangel" or "Saint Michael" in prayers and liturgies. While not formally canonized as a saint, he is revered as a celestial being with immense significance.

In Catholic teaching St. Michael has four "offices" or roles.

- *Leader of the Army of God*: St. Michael is seen as the commander of heaven's forces, leading the angelic host in their battle against the powers of darkness. He serves as a model of spiritual warfare, reflecting the ongoing struggle between good and evil.
- *Angel of Death*: St. Michael is regarded as the angel of death, accompanying the souls of departed Christians to heaven. At the moment of death, he offers the souls an opportunity for redemption, thwarting the devil's attempts to claim them.
- *Weigher of Souls*: St. Michael is often depicted holding balanced scales, symbolizing his role in weighing souls during the Last Judgment. This signifies his involvement in the divine judgment of humanity.
- *Guardian of the Church*: St. Michael serves as the guardian of the Church and the Chosen People. Throughout history, he has been revered by military orders of knights and is considered the patron saint of various cities and countries.

St. Michael the Archangel continues to play a crucial role in our Roman Catholic tradition as a defender of faith, protector of souls, and a symbol of divine justice. His presence and intercession are sought after in times of spiritual warfare and challenges, making him a revered figure in Catholic devotion and liturgy.



*What's coming up?*



*~ Sunday 6 October ~*

*Blessing of the Pets*

**at our 9:30 am Holy Eucharist**

# *INQUIRER'S HOUR*



*Thinking about the  
BIG questions of your Faith?*

*Join us TODAY at 4:00pm  
for an hour of discussion on the  
deep matters of our Christian  
faith.*

*We meet  
in St Peter's Parish Centre*





Cardo

*Join us for a  
St Peter's*

*“Trivia Night”*

*11 October at 7:00 pm*