

St Peter's  
CHURCH SOUTHPORT



Key Notes: Sunday 12 & 19 Feb 2023

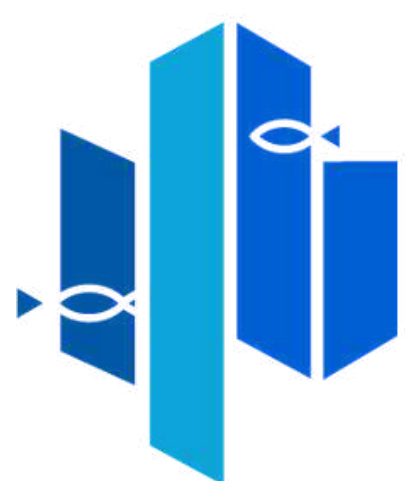


# Annual General Meeting

**“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 26th Day of February 2023 at 11.00am.”**

***Nominations for Parish Council close on Sunday 19th February***



**St Peter's**  
CHURCH SOUTHPORT

**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
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 26th February 2023, 11:00 am**

I commence this year's report by giving thanks to God for the faithfulness of parishioners through three years of the pandemic restrictions. The world is now doing its best to re-establish normality, finding ways to live with the virus and to try and catch up with all that we missed during those strange times. Almost three years ago the world stopped, so, in February 2023 where might the faithful souls of St Peter's see themselves? Allow me to make some preliminary observations.

**Firstly**, we seemed to have learned to live with the virus. It's been some time since we had daily updates on the news about the numbers of Covid cases but it is clear that the virus is still in our community. I mention this not as a scare tactic, but as evidence that we have learned to live with Covid19 in our community. The situation has been 'normalised' if you like. We now go about a daily life with the tacit acknowledgement that the virus is here to stay but, having done all we can to protect ourselves, we need to get on with things.

**Secondly**, I would repeat my assertion from last year's Rector's Report, that, by the grace of God the parish has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability over the last 3 years. For all the change and restrictions we have encountered we have stayed true to our sense of identity: St Peter's is still a very welcoming Church with a deep commitment to the Anglo-Catholic traditions that have shaped this parish over nearly 140 years.

**Thirdly**, in October last year 25 parishioners filled out the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). Recently we received a NCLS document summarising the information that had been provided. There are a number of very interesting points raised but one in particular struck me as strongly emblematic of St Peter's as a whole. In response to the question, "How do we relate to each other?" 100% of those responding replied that they had a "strong sense of belonging." Taking this for what it is (it is a small-ish sample) I take great encouragement from this sentiment. A second response to this question (supported by 95% of those surveyed) stated that they "found it easy to make friends." As if we needed proof: St Peter's is a loving and close community. Thanks be to God.



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. This has been our practice in recent years and folk have responded favourably to this paper-saving measure.

I have also placed my Rector's Report in this issue to give parishioners an opportunity to read this prior to our AGM.

I still have 2 copies of the daily reflection notes for Lent, titled *From Ashes to Hope*. These are 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" (see the advert later in this edition) once again 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*



## 1. PASTORALIA

With life returning to the 'normal' so too are the pastoral rhythms of parish life. In 2022 there were 31 Baptisms at St Peter's. Nearly all of these took place outside of Sunday Eucharists. This is not my desired mode of practice, but restrictions dictated. 12 Funerals were undertaken, with a proportion of these conducted at Allambe and other Funeral Homes. After a period of no weddings at all at St Peter's it was a pleasure to conduct 6 Weddings in 2022. 10 were confirmed in 2022.

**Our Communicant numbers.** These have bounced back to a reasonable number in 2022 - 4793 communicants. We haven't yet returned to the sorts of attendances we enjoyed prior to the pandemic but there are positive signs that people are slowly emerging from hibernation (!)

**Online streaming:** we continue to stream online. Our most popular service is always the Sunday 7:00 am with much diminished numbers watching at other times. Consideration must now be given to scaling back our streaming (from all services, i.e., five services streamed each week) to, say, just the 7:00 am service. I would be very pleased to hear from any of our regular 'watchers' and from those who attend in person on this proposal.

**Where are you:** while there is good evidence of a number new folk joining St Peter's in 2022, thanks be to God, there is also evidence of a type of 'holding back. Folk staying away from Church because of illness and so forth we understand. That is what we have learned to do over the last few years. Yet I am not the only one who has noticed that our numbers at our 9:30 am service remain (stubbornly) at around half of what we once expected prior to the pandemic. We certainly are not the only church to notice this (many of my colleagues report the same) nor are we the only organization to notice this. There seems to be a type of lethargy, perhaps even a cautious (unconscious?) reluctance, to get back into the swing of things. Church attendance is, like many things in life, a discipline, and thanks to Covid a portion of our society has lost this element in their lives. So, if you see people wandering aimlessly around their living rooms on a Sunday morning, please drag them to church!

**The feedback loop:** perhaps you've noticed over the last few years how often Christine can be found to be greeting you at the door of the Church. In the early pandemic days this role was established to maintain strict observance of Covid restrictions. Well, time has passed and both Christine and I have noticed how vital this role has become as a means of welcoming new people, receiving feedback from parishioners and providing information to parishioners, monitoring 'covid safety' as well as being that friendly and unflappable presence.

The moments before and after worship are, pastorally speaking, pure gold. As rector I have been well aware of this fact for decades, but I now have Christine to back me up on this after her recent years of experience: the role at the door is vital to the health of any parish. None of this is to be seen as letting the rector 'off the hook' in terms of being present at the door after the service. Rather, it should be seen as an invaluable adjunct. Furthermore, this is not diminishing the great work done by sidespeople over the years, but rather to confirm just what a rich opportunity in pastoral care this role really is.

**The Newtons.** We were able to enjoy Tim Newton as our theological student for most of the year. Tim, Steph and Winifred travelled to St Stephen's College, Oxford, where Tim commenced an M.Theology degree. Sure, we miss them, but we're also very proud of them and wish them all the best (and, if we're honest, we're really looking forward to seeing them again sometime soon.)

**Let's party.** Well, not quite... though St Peter's has always enjoyed a great get-together. The social side of our church family is, and always will be, very important. To this end we are doing our best to re-instate coffee and tea after every service (at the same time as implemented now tried-and-tested covid safe practices.) It is not by coincidence that you will find that at least once a month there is a parish get-together, e.g., Port 'n' Pies on Christmas Eve, Pancake Tuesday, Patronal BBQ, Melbourne Cup 'fun at the races,' The Fashion Parade and more. We will always make sure that there is a time and place to meet and chat – and if you have any ideas, please do share them. One important point however: these events require 'hands on deck' so please don't be backward in volunteering your time as well.



## 2. FINANCES

It is appropriate to leave more detailed discussion of finances for our Treasurer. I would make the briefest of remarks here.

### **Ahern St and Marine Parade apartments.**

By February 2022, working in conjunction with St John's Crisis Centre in Surfer's Paradise, we had purchased two modest apartments for their use as 'emergency accommodation.' From the beginning, St John's has been our 'tenant' for both properties and they have also provided good property management. They have guaranteed rent irrespective of whether or not the properties are occupied (although they have both been occupied fully this year) so we have made some financial gains 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 has over the last decade been less than that of the returns these properties now provide.

We were able to complete the purchase of these properties on 24 December 2021 and the Ahern St became operative on 21 February. We can now look back on nearly a year's work with St John's on this project and make some preliminary assessments.

I will leave the Treasurer to discuss the financial aspects in more detail, but would like to make one point. At my estimation we charge rent for these properties about \$150 - \$180 per week less than the market median for 2-bedroom apartments in the Labrador area. In effect we are making a 'donation' to the emergency housing work of St Johns Crisis Centre to the tune of approximately \$17,000.

**Financial Management.** For some years we were very fortunate to have Heidi Hoy acting as our treasurer. When Heidi retired from the position questions were rightly asked, "how will we fill her shoes?" The answer is, as always, God provides. Russell Manfield has stepped into the position with skill and grace and working with Christine (and employing the excellent 'Xero' accounting program) the ship has continued to sail. So well done and thank you to you both.

## 3. EVENTS

**Social events.** In terms of social events, things are beginning to return to 'normal.' As we were emerging from the third or fourth round of Covid (whatever variant) we played it safe by starting with Tea and Coffee after worship once a month.

We also managed to enjoy getting together for Shrove Tuesday; in late June we enjoyed a Patronal Festival BBQ (136 years since the founding of Southport Parish) and as the year progressed we enjoyed the Fashion Parade, the Melbourne Cup and our Advent and Christmas festivities.

**Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra.** We hosted a number of concerts in 2022. We have been very willing and active in our support for the Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra over the years but for the very best of reasons they have now moved their 'centre of operations' to Bond University. This is because Bond has taken on sponsorship of the GCCO as part of their increasing support for music in their academic profile. We will miss the GCCO, but we do look forward to having them come back and play for us from time to time. We celebrate this success and are proud to have played a small part in their journey to this new found success.





#### 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! This May Christine intends to 'semi-retire'. Chris and Alain will move over to their retirement home on MacLeay Island, with Christine continuing part-time. Just what shape this will take is yet to be finalized but even in semi-retirement Christine will be spoiling us by providing part-time support for our day-to-day parish administration, thus ensuring that the considerable body of 'corporate knowledge' that she has will not be lost. The one difference that we will have to adjust to is that Christine will be working *remotely* for most (not all) of her part-time hours.

Of course, Christine and Alain come as a pair and even though Alain spends a lot of his time on the island these days he has still been working in and around the parish buildings when time permits. As I said in last year's report, in an unofficial way Alain 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, created and/or maintained. They add up to an enormous contribution by one man and again we can but give our heartfelt thanks.

**Wardens.** The parish and I are 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.

**Fr Dale Huston.** Many will have noted Fr Dale's excellent contributions to our "Key Notes" over this last year, especially his Advent Study series *Cradle to Cradle*. The work that Fr Dale put into this excellent study was truly remarkable (and that was plain to see.) So to Fr Dale and Doreen, wherever your new home is on Vancouver Island may you be truly blessed. And Fr Dale, once again, thank you!

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 (aka Mr and Mrs Sharp)**, 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. This year Luke we have tried to return you to your keyboard and slowly wean you away from the computer buttons that you have managed expertly over the Covid years, providing an excellent online streaming experience.

Thank you to the **Sandra and 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, **Kym**, for managing the Sunday coffee and tea so well. Thank you, **Trish**, for keeping our silver looking so bright and shiny. Thank you to **Rhonda** for ensuring that the purificators are always clean. A very big thank you to **Allen** for keeping the grounds looking so neat and tidy. If I've missed anyone, please be assured that that is not intentional, and accept my thanks and the thanks of the parish for your work.

Time for me to sign off. As always, let us consecrate all our thoughts, words and deeds to God's service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Fr Don Parker*





***Do join us for pancakes at 6:00 pm  
in the Parish Centre  
~\$10 per person~***

***"Shrove Tuesday" ~ 21 February***



# *Ash Wednesday ~ 22nd February 2023*

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



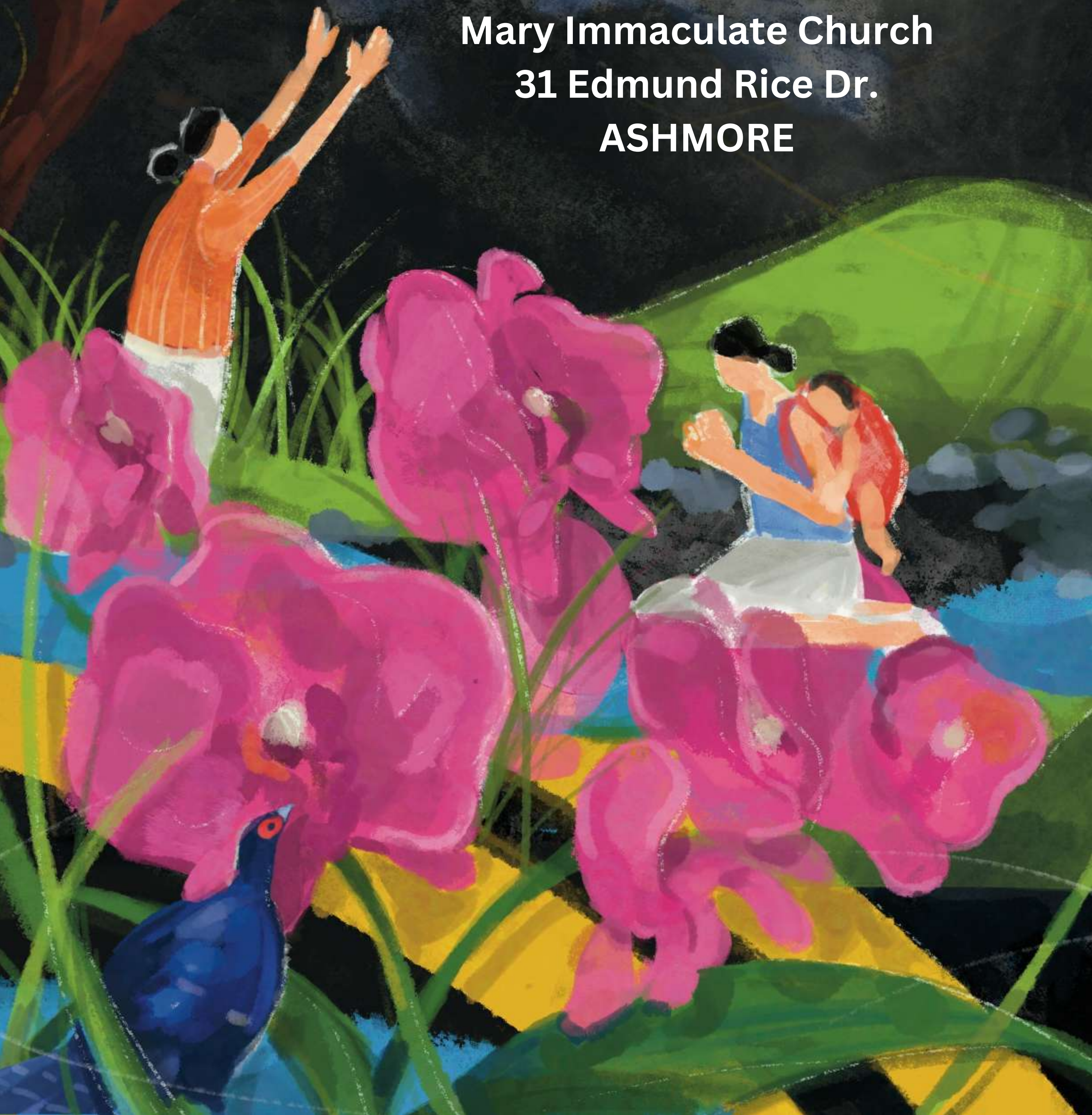
*"Impositon of Ashes" & Holy Eucharist: 7:00 am & 10:00 am*





# World Day of Prayer *Taiwan*

10 am Fri 3rd March  
Mary Immaculate Church  
31 Edmund Rice Dr.  
**ASHMORE**





# Collect & Reading for Sunday 12 February ~ Epiphany VI

## Deuteronomy 10: 12-22

12 So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. 14 Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, 15 yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. 16 Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, 18 who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. 19 You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. 22 Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

## Psalm 119:1-8

**R Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.**

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways. **R**
- 4 You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments. **R**
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgements.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. **R**



## 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

1 And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? 4 For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## Collect of Epiphany VI

*Almighty God,  
you gave the law to guide our lives:  
grant that we may never shrink from  
your commandments,  
but, as we are taught by your Spirit,  
may fulfil your law in perfect love;  
through Christ our Lord and Master,  
who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.*

## Matthew 5: 21 - 37

21 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. 31 'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." 32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." 34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.



# Sunday 19 February ~ The Transfiguration

## Exodus 24: 12-18

12 The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' 13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## Psalm 2

**R O hear and heed the voice of God**

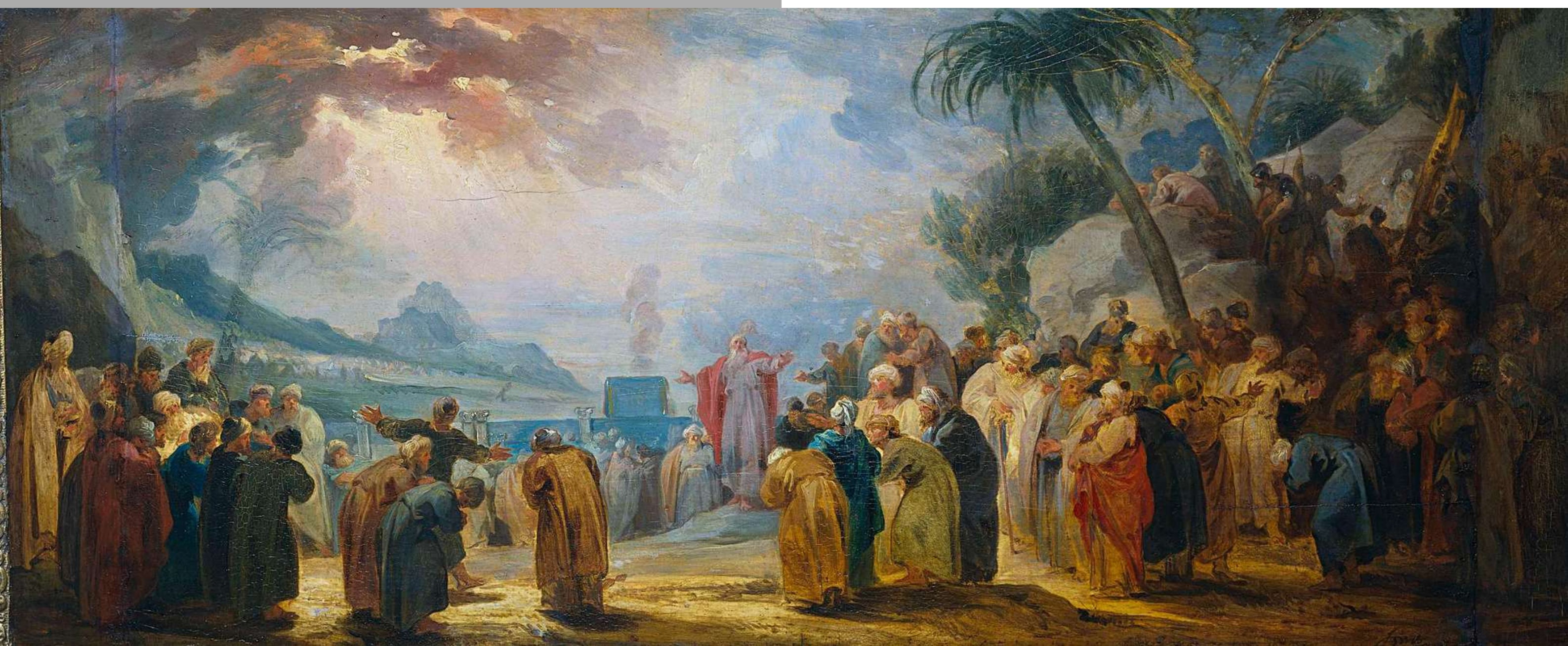
1 Why are the nations in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?  
2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt  
and the princes plot together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed?  
3 'Let us break their yoke', they say;  
'let us cast off their bonds from us.' **R**

4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
and the Lord has them in derision.  
5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath,  
and his rage fills them with terror.  
6 'I myself have set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion.' **R**

7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord:  
he said to me, 'You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you.  
8 Ask of me and I will give you the nations  
for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.  
9 You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.' **R**

10 And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.  
11 Submit to the Lord with fear,  
and with trembling bow before him;  
12 Lest he be angry and you perish;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled. **R**

13 Happy are they all  
who take refuge in him! **R**





## 2 Peter 1: 16-21

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## Collect of Transfiguration Sunday

*Father in heaven,*

*whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at*

*Jerusalem:*

*give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

## Matthew 17: 1 - 9

1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'





# For All the Saints

## Cyril and Methodius ~ February 14

### *Missionaries to the Slavs*

Cyril and Methodius are honoured for their missionary work to the southern Slavs, and as pioneers of Slavic literature. They were brothers, born in Thessalonica, Methodius about 815, and Constantine (later known as Cyril) in 826. Both were very well educated, with some experience in diplomatic work. Both also had an interest in a monastic life-style and were familiar with Slavonic speech.

When, therefore, the patriarch of Constantinople in 862 received from the prince of Moravia a request for missionaries to help establish the church there, the patriarch sent Cyril and Methodius. They were responsible for inventing an alphabet for the Slavonic language (the predecessor of the Slavonic script of, e.g., modern Russia). They then produced biblical and liturgical material in Slavonic and did much to establish the church.

Unfortunately, Moravia was a part of Europe where it was not clear whether it came under the jurisdiction of Rome in the west or Constantinople in the east. Cyril and Methodius were much harassed by bishops of the Frankish Empire, who favoured “civilised” Latin for the church and regarded Slavonic as “barbaric”.

In an effort to get papal approval (and in this they were largely successful), the brothers went to Rome, where Cyril died in 869.

Methodius was appointed archbishop of Sirmium and returned to Moravia, where he continued to build up the church. Even though he now had papal backing, the German bishops of the Frankish Empire continued to oppose him, and they eventually succeeded in having him imprisoned. He was released after papal intervention, and on condition that Slavonic was used only for preaching. Methodius completed the translation of the Bible into Slavonic while continuing his missionary work. When he died 885, his funeral was conducted in Greek, Latin and Slavonic, and he was honoured as one who was “all things to all people”.

*Everliving God,  
by the power of your Spirit,  
Cyril and his brother Methodius,  
in the face of hostility,  
brought the light of the gospel to the  
Slavic people;*

*give us courage when our way seems hard,  
and strengthen us to proclaim your gospel  
in our day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*





# Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna ~ February 23

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna in Asia Minor, provides a valuable link between the church of the apostles and the church of the second century. His martyrdom was recorded in detail, and this provides a touching account of his death.

Polycarp was born about 70 AD, probably in Asia Minor. He learned some of his Christian faith from St John, who lived his final years in Ephesus. Polycarp himself taught Irenaeus, who became bishop of Lyons in 177. Polycarp became the leader of the Christian community in Smyrna and was bishop there for many years. In the early second century Asia Minor was the area in which Christianity found the strongest support.

When Ignatius of Antioch passed Smyrna on his way to martyrdom in Rome in 107, he wrote to the church in Smyrna, and a letter of Polycarp to the Philippians about the same time also survives. Polycarp made no pretensions to scholarship and theology, but exhorted the Christians in Philippi to live circumspectly and bring no discredit on the church. He quoted from Paul and from Matthew's Gospel in support of his comments. The church was still very young and only slowly developing firm theological convictions. Polycarp was particularly anxious about those who deny that Christ was truly human. Some found it easier to believe in a Saviour who was a heavenly visitor rather than one of us.

From about 150 the church in Asia Minor became the centre of public dislike. Pagans and Jews alike sought to have the church crushed. The state was promoting with some zeal the religious oath to the emperor as a sign of loyalty to the state, and the Jews, who lived in an uneasy truce with Rome after the bloody and unsuccessful rebellion twenty years before, regarded the Christians as a destabilising influence. Both groups, therefore, found the Christians a convenient target.

Polycarp himself was arrested, probably in 156, and urged to deny his Christianity and acknowledge the lordship of the emperor. "Swear and I will let you go", the governor told him, "Curse Christ." Polycarp replied, "For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme against my king and saviour?"





The Flowers in the Church are to the  
Glory God  
and in loving memory of

Stuart Michael Hollindale &  
Nola Mary Hollindale

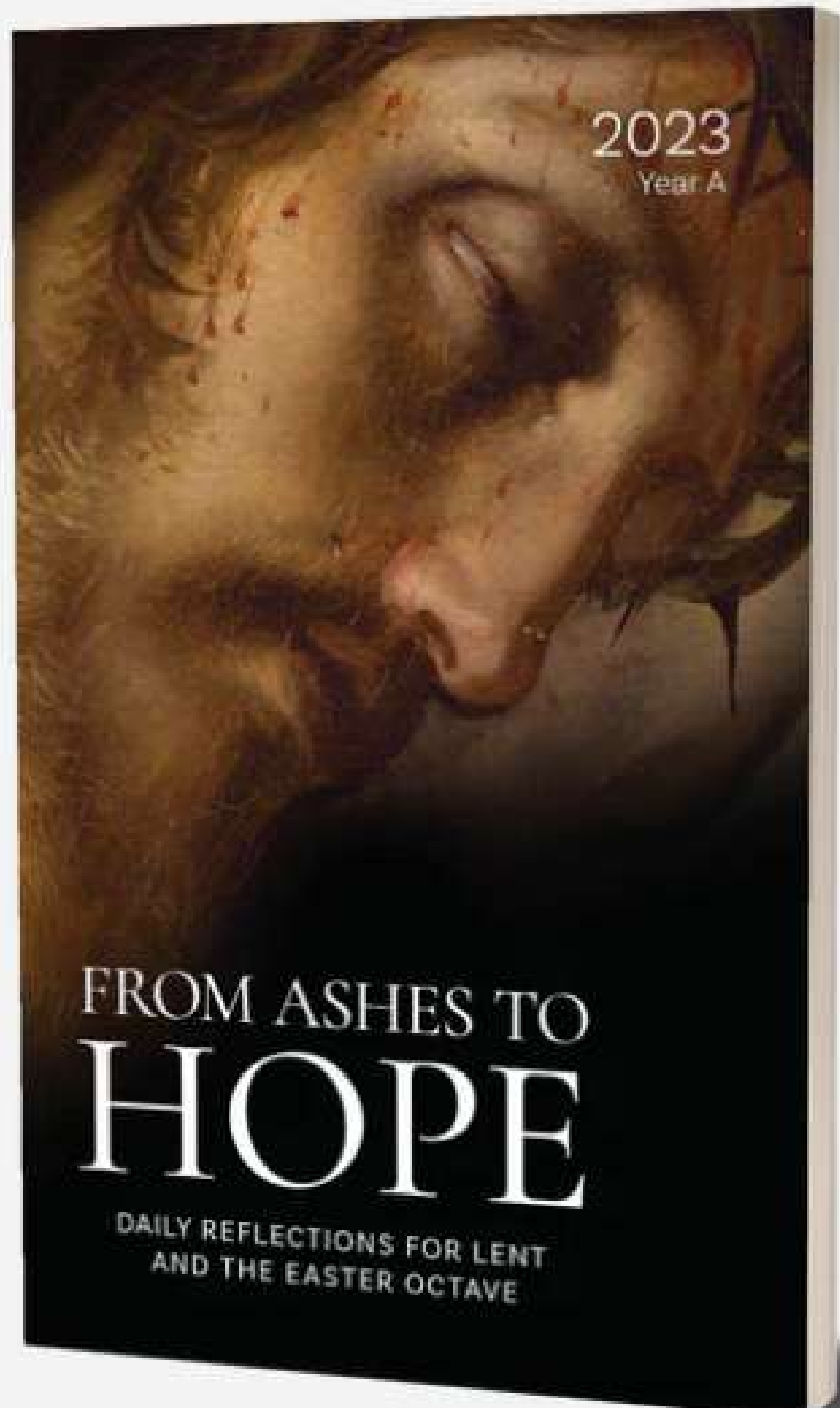
Sunday 19th February

~ Given by their family ~

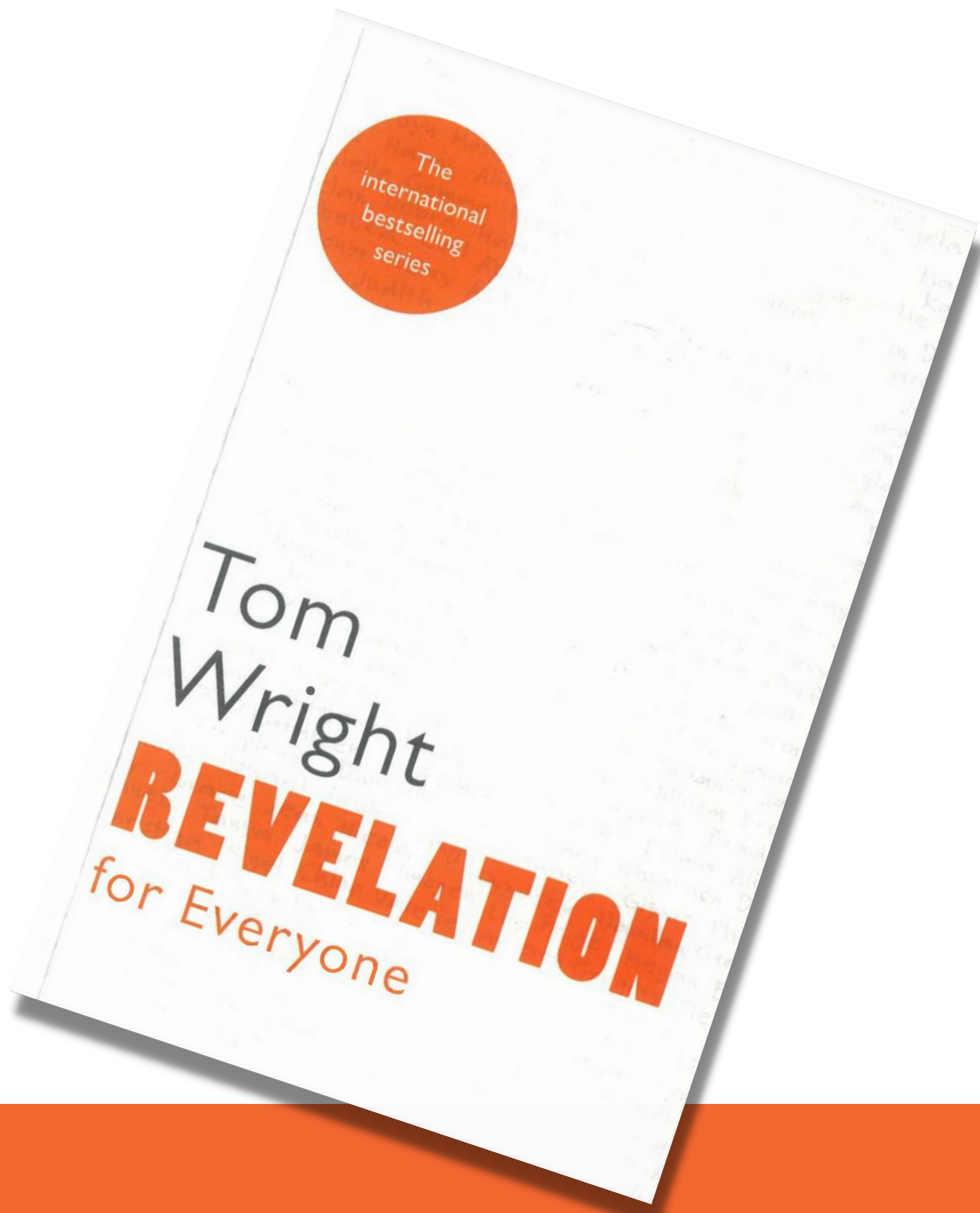


Two copies of this Lenten  
Daily Reflections booklet are  
available for anyone who is  
interested.

This is an excellent publication  
produced by the Catholic  
Archdiocese of Brisbane's  
*Evangelisation Brisbane*







## *Wednesday Bible Study*

This Wednesday at 11:00 am (following our 10:00 am Holy Eucharist) our Bible Study recommences with a new study: **The Book of Revelation.**

Join us in person (in the Parish Centre) or Zoom online - just let us know and we'll send a Zoom invite



"St Peter's Church Southport, is a welcoming, hospitable community committed to the worship of God in beauty and holiness in the classical Anglican tradition."

You can find out more about us at

[www.stpetersgc.org.au](http://www.stpetersgc.org.au)

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## SERVICES

### Sunday

7:00am: Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9:30am: Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
5:45pm: Holy Eucharist (APBA)  
5:45pm: Choral Evensong  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month)

### Weekday Eucharist

10:00am – Wednesday  
12:00pm – Thursday

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**Anglican**  
Church Southern Queensland