

St Mary's



Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Sunday

26 September 2021

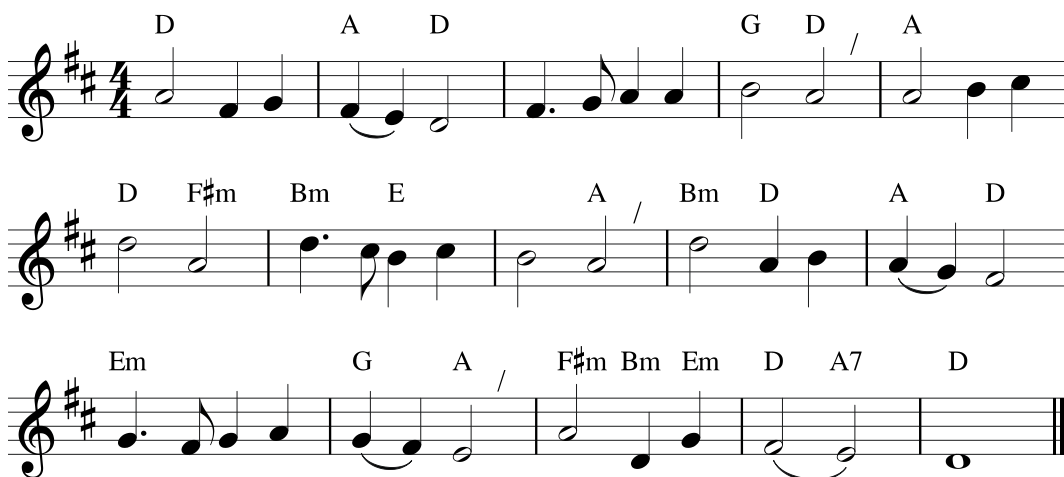


*Welcome to St Mary's North Melbourne.
Thank you for joining us in worship.
Please join in saying the text marked in **bold**
and singing the musical responses and hymns.*

INTRODUCTION

The theme that runs through our readings today is that of salvation and deliverance. The Jewish people in exile are saved from annihilation by the courage of Queen Esther who pleads for her people. The psalm is about the divine deliverance of God's people in distress. James calls on us to pray for one another to bring about God's forgiveness and deliverance. And Mark's Gospel calls on us to make personal sacrifices in order to remain on the path of life, bidding us to be open to the ministry of others, even where it does not correspond to our own. We are saved by God's power but we are also invited to share in God's redemption and to be life-givers in our relationship with others, including creation.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN TIS 472



1. Father of mercy, God of consolation,
look on your people, gathered here to praise you:
pity our weakness, come in power to aid us,
source of all blessing.

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2. Son of the Father, Lord of all creation,
come as our Saviour, Jesus, friend of sinners:
grant us forgiveness, lift our downcast spirit,
heal us and save us.
 3. Joy-giving Spirit, be our light in darkness,
come to befriend us, help us bear our burdens:
give us true courage, breathe your peace around us,
stay with us always.
 4. God in three persons, Father, Son and Spirit,
come to renew us, fill your church with glory:
grant us your healing, pledge of resurrection,
foretaste of heaven.

*James Quinn 1919–
Words ICEL*

*Arrangement from the English Hymnal by permission Oxford University Press
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PRAYER OF PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you:
And also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy; **Lord have mercy**
Christ have mercy; **Christ have mercy**
Lord have mercy; **Lord have mercy**

God's whole creation groans.
The land produces thorns and thistles
and longs to be set free.
Our sin affects all around us.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Creator God,
we confess that we have not honoured and obeyed you.
We have broken our relationships with one another,
abused your fragile creation, wounded your love
and marred your holy image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.
Father, forgive us. Lead us from apathy to love.
Strengthen us as stewards of your precious people
and of your glorious creation,
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Amen.

The celebrant pronounces the absolution:

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER

God of holy dreaming, Great Creator Spirit, from the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of mother earth. You spoke and the gum tree grew. In the vast desert and dense forest and in cities at the water's edge, creation sings your praise. Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land. When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, and the dispossessed. The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope. In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation. Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurts and shame of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rev'd (Aunty) Lenore Taylor, from APBA page 218

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the reading

A reading from the book of Esther:

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then

Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Esther 7.1-6, 7.9-10; 9.20-22

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

Response:

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth

1. If the Lord had not been on our side,
now may Israel say:
if the Lord had not been on our side,
when our enemies rose against us,
2. Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.

Response

-
3. Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,
and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.
 4. But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

Response

5. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

Response

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of James:

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever

brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

James 5.12-20

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Those who want to save their life will lose,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark:

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And

if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Mark 9.38-50

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation:

The heavens tell of your glory;

For our land, its beauty and its resources,

For the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray:

For those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

that we may use your gifts responsibly;

For those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,

that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours and marvel at your creation;

For artists, scientists and visionaries,

That through their work we may see creation afresh.

Silence

We thank you for giving us life;

for all who enrich our experience.

We pray for all through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life,

For prisoners, refugees, the handicapped, and all who are sick;

For those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church,

for all who seek to bring life to others.

For those in our community who are in special need...

And for those whose year's mind occurs at this time....

Silence

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;

may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

Silence

God, Creator, bring us new life.

Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

God of peace,

let us your people know,

that at the heart of turbulence

there is an inner calm that comes

from faith in you.

Keep us from being content with things as they are,

that from this central peace

there may come a creative compassion,

a thirst for justice,

and a willingness to give of ourselves

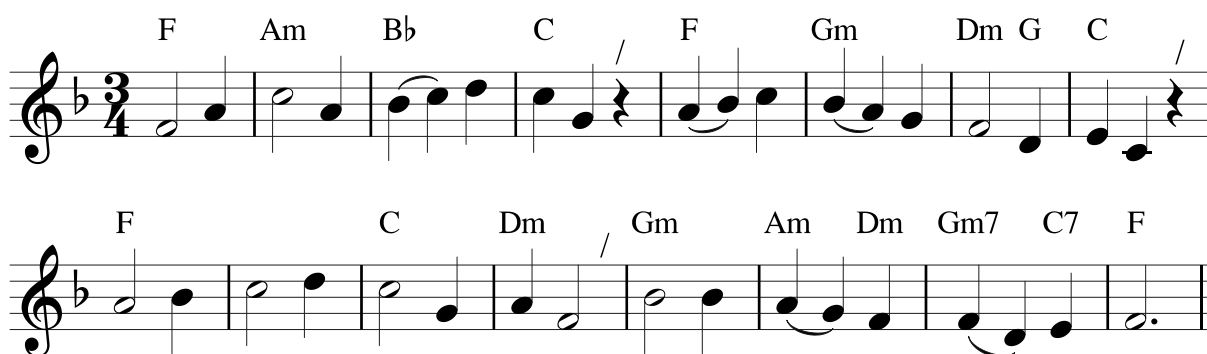
in the spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN TIS 297

We are keeping this hymn during the Season of Creation to keep a consistent note of prayer and thanks for creation



Yours the hand that made creation, womb of every constellation,
every species, every nation: glory to the Three in one.

Jesus from the first descending, by your birth the broken mending,
Word of God the never ending: glory to the Three in one.

Holy Wisdom, ever near us, tongue of fire to teach all hearers,
sanctify and guard and cheer us: glory to the Three in one.

Elliot Rose (1928-1944)

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer, fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessèd be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God, eternal Wisdom,

all you have made is beautiful and good.

We thank you for darkness and light,

for this earth and for our bodies, for growth and change

and all that lies beyond our knowledge and imagination.

In every generation you befriend your people.

You gave us your holy Law, sent the prophets,

and called us back to the truth whenever we turned away.

You were vindicated in your Son Jesus

who came with forgiveness, feasting, and stories of your grace.

Though we rejected him,

death on a cross could not quench the fire of his love.

You raised him up for us, the firstborn from the dead,

to build a new community of hope
where all are honoured as Christ's equal friends.
And so we praise you with Mary, mother of the living Word,
and with all your faithful friends, as we join the angels' song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of the feast, your household is hungry
for the bread of heaven and the cup of life.
Send your Spirit on us and on our celebration,
so that we may eat at this table and be satisfied
with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with the people he loved.
He took the bread, gave you thanks,
broke it to share with them, and said:
"Take and eat this: this is my body broken for you."
Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took a cup of wine.
Again he thanked you and told them:
"Drink this, all of you: it is my blood,
shed for you and for many
so that sins may be forgiven.
Whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me."

So we delight to remember Jesus:
the faithfulness of his life, the victory of his cross,
the glory of his resurrection,
the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out for the Church.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God, holy Wisdom, merciful and generous,
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
Make us good stewards of creation,
with justice in our hearts, courage in our actions
and power in our speech to bear witness to the truth.
Protect us with your glory,
unite your church in loyalty and love,
and bring us home with all your saints to feast with you for ever.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
and in the Spirit's grace,
with heart and soul and mind and strength
we love and worship you alone, Father, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ has taught us we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace.**

THE INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already here,
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. So we and all your people shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. **Amen.**

Gtr. Capo 3 B♭(G) E♭(C) F(D) B♭(G) Dm(Bm) E♭(C) F(D) /

B♭(G) C(A) F(D) Gm(Em) C(A) /

Cm(Am) Gm(Em) E♭(C) B♭(G) F7(D7) B♭(G) B♭7(G7)

E♭(C) F(D) B♭(G) E♭(C) F(D) B♭(G)

1. O Lord of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.
2. You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,
your laws its mighty energies fulfil;
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve your holy will.
3. O life, awaking life in cell and tissue,
from flower to bird, from beast to human brain,
O help us trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding of your ageless plan.
4. You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures
and, though they marred that image, love them still;
uplift our eyes to Christ, that in his features
we may discern the beauty of your will.

-
5. Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,
who made us more than nature's heirs to be,
help us to tread, with grace our souls enduing,
the road to life and immortality.

*Vernon Griffiths
Fred Pratt Gleen 1903 Copyright 1971 Hope Publishing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love.

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of the Spirit.

THE BLESSING

Go out into the world rejoicing, meet your Creator who awaits you there; delight in the richness and diversity of the world Christ died to save; live in the power of the Spirit that renews all things; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Postludio festivo

Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Opus 142 #2

PRAYERS

Please pray for those in need, including Barbara, Pat, Jocelyn, Roderick, Mandy, Jenny, Sasha, Martin, Jane, Pamela, Paul, Rhondda + Andrew.

Also, those whose anniversaries of death fall this week: Audrey Rodda.

If there is a name that should be included, please advise the Parish Office by email office@stmarys.org.au

Acknowledgements:

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POET'S CORNER

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.
You do not have to be good.

© 1986 Mary Oliver



ST MARY'S PARISH NOTICES

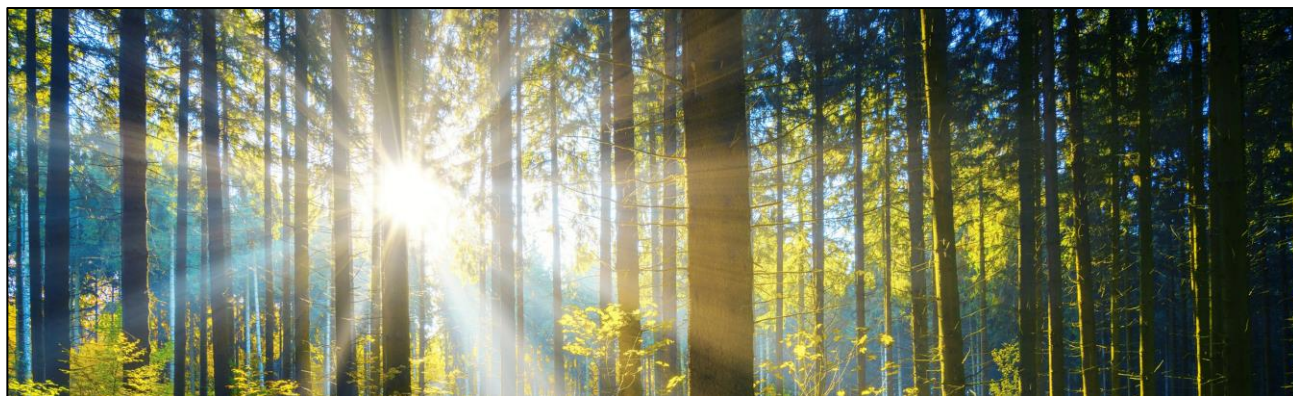
ST MARY'S NORTH MELBOURNE DELTA STUDIES FOR SEASON OF CREATION

Delta Studies Sundays at 11:45 AM

<https://bit.ly/stmary-delta>

Meeting ID: 890 3358 3158 (Passcode: 440426)

SUNDAY	TOPIC	CHAIR
Week 1 (Sun 23 rd Ordinary Time) 5/9/21	Virtual morning tea: response to service	Geoff
Week 2 (Sun 24 th Ord) 12/9/21	New Testament & creation	Mthr Dorothy
Week 3 (Sun 25 th Ord) 19/9/21	Genesis creation narratives in Old Testament	Geoff
Week 4 (Sun 26 th Ord) 26/9/21	Creation & ecology: current situation	Audrey
Week 5 (Sun 27 th Ord) 3/10/21	Virtual morning tea: introduction to pets	Fr Jan



CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF CREATION ONLINE



We're also coordinating an ONLINE celebration of creation and creatures on [St Mary's Facebook page](#)! Throughout September, we'll publish posts of parishioners' short reflections on nature with pics of the natural world, and in the week starting Mon 27 Sep in the leadup to Sun 3 Oct, we'll show our appreciation and care for our community's creatures by posting pics and stories of the pets of St Mary's!

It's easy for parishioners and friends (including the four-legged, furry variety) of St Mary's to get involved, all you need to do is:

- send a SHORT REFLECTION on nature of roughly 100-150 words or a Bible verse celebrating creation together with A PHOTO of a place in nature that you find inspiring or a source of comfort (can be a photo of your garden or one taken on your daily walk)
- send a PIC OF YOUR PET with their name, breed and a BRIEF DESCRIPTION of their personality and what you celebrate about God's creatures in general and/or your pet specifically (it can also be a tribute to a beloved pet who has passed away).

Please take part in this fun, online action and email your pics and text today to: office@stmarys.org.au

GET YOUR FAVOURITE TEACUP READY!



As soon as permitted by Covid regulations I plan to hold a morning or afternoon tea on the church lawns.

Notice will be given on Thursday by email to let you know that it is on. I will provide the scones etc, you bring along your own fancy teacup/mug and we will have some fun getting together. Fr Jan

Be ready!



CHRISTMAS STALL



We are planning, all going well, to hold a Christmas stall on Advent Sunday, November 28. In the absence of the Fair this will be our main big money raising project for the year. We need the help of everyone to help stock this stall with gifts and useful things for people to buy at Christmas time.

Are you a cook or a craftsperson? Can you make jams or marmalades, pickles or chutneys, sauces or other preserves? Suggestions for favourite preserves include:

- preserved lemons
- citrus marmalades (orange, kumquat, grapefruit)
- raspberry jam
- onion marmalade
- tomato relish
- tomato kasoundi
- mint jelly

I have good recipes for all these if required. Jars available at the Church. If you can sew, maybe you could make items such as potholders, serviettes, hand towels, cushion covers, lavender bags, or anything else you can think of. Lockdown times are a good chance to make things, so do get cooking or sewing!

Ring me if you want to talk (0417364431)

Marion Poynter for the Hospitality Committee

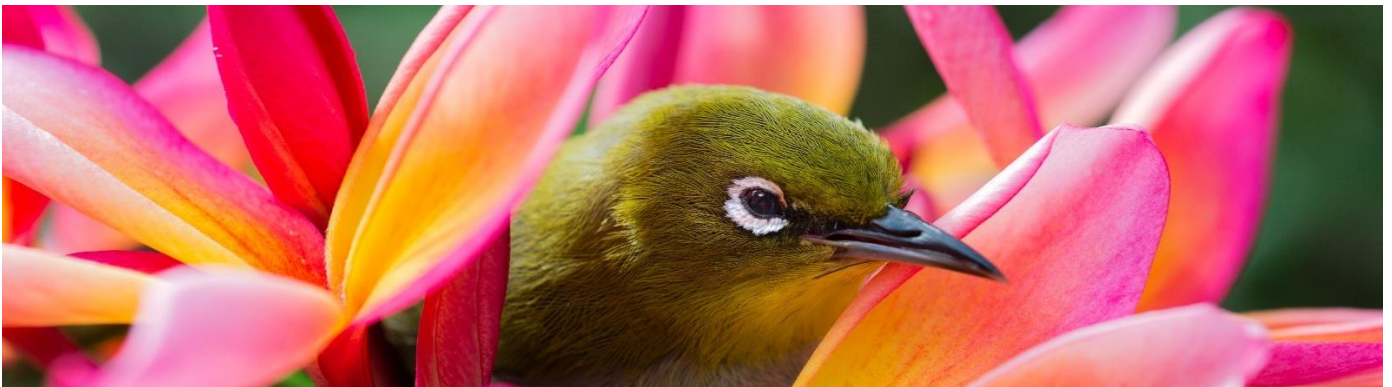


YOUR OFFERING ONLINE

Account Name: St Marys Anglican Church North Melbourne

Bank: Westpac North Melbourne.

BSB: 033 132 **Account Number:** 264412



CHURCH GARDEN GROUP

If you are available to help in the Church Garden, please contact:

Margaret Noble

0458 753 654

CONTACT ST MARYS

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bevjp@westnet.com.au

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Michael Golding m-golding@bigpond.com

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Parish Administrator: Darrell Pitt.

Office Hours: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Mon-Fri.



The Anglican Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about behavior of a church worker, past or present. The Diocese of Melbourne is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously, and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint. St Mary's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is on our noticeboard and can be downloaded from our website www.stmarys.org.au.

PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne is an inner-city Christian community that strives to be faithful, inclusive and sacramental.

God inspires us to worship in daily celebration; to be caring, thoughtful and inviting.

In response to God's call, in the next three to five years we aim:

- *To grow substantially in faith and numbers*
- *To create an inter-generational culture that values all age groups - children and adults - equally*
- *To express our faith in active engagement within and beyond our own community*
- *To deploy our property and financial assets in strategic support of the ministry needs of the parish for the long term*
- *To become more open to change as we learn to grow*

