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ST AGNES' PASTORAL LETTER August 20, 2020

Dear friends

You are all in my prayers as we continue to navigate our way through this time of pandemic. I am aware that some of us find doing so more difficult than others, and that there is no one 'right' way to sail. To those who are finding it difficult I would encourage you reach out to a friend, to family or neighbours. Tell people how you are really are. For those who love you cannot really help unless they know what is happening inside your heart and head. So, if you need support, please speak up. Ask for help. To those who are doing OK, whose navigational skills are such that you are surviving OK, I would ask that you keep an eye out for those who may be struggling more than you. In the Christian community we are called to seek and save those who may be feeling a little lost, those who may be drowning just a little. So, if one of your friends or a member of your family has gone quiet, ask after them. Ask the simple question 'Are you OK?' and follow it up with '... because it's OK to not be OK. You can share what's happening for you. It might help.'

Over the next couple of weeks (August 24-September 6) I will be on study leave. Study leave gives clergy an opportunity to catch up on the substantial reading and thinking that feeds our faith and those of our parishioners, reading and thinking that many of us find it difficult to attend to in the hustle and bustle of ordinary parish life. Whilst I am away, Bruce Everett will lead services of morning prayer via Zoom at our normal worship time of 10am on Sundays. The details for connecting remain the same. The bible study group that meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10am will continue in my absence as well.

We are grateful to Jean for distributing a winter edition of *Reach Out* recently. Thank you to everyone who made contributions.

You will be glad to know that the bell-tower was finally repaired last week, so we can now ring the bell safely. We look forward to the time when we can again respond to its call and gather in our church for worship.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to tithe via electronic means. If you have not made a contribution for a while, I encourage you to do so using these account details:

Account name: St Agnes Anglican Church Black Rock
BSB: 033-033 Account number: 813-228

Cheques can still be sent to our Honorary Treasurer at 35 Arkaringa Crescent, Black Rock 3193.

For those who like to follow Archbishop Freier's weekly messages, they can be accessed by the Anglican Media YouTube channel [here](#). A conversation I moderated for the University of Divinity about the unique impacts of the pandemic on Indigenous people can now be viewed [here](#).

I've included with this letter the lectionary readings and collects for the next four weeks, along with an article I wrote some time ago about the practise of daily prayer.

Whilst I am on leave, please be in touch with a member of the parish council should there be anything that you need. The Councillors are: Suzanne Cochrane-Blanchard, Jacquie Bennett, Bruce Everett, Christine Foxwell, Jenny Haworth, Di Matthews, Jean Oliver and Helen Wilson.

Yours in the faith of Christ,

Garry Deverell

Vicar

I normally work Sunday 7am-1pm, and Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm

Collect for 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Aug 23)

O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: give us the light of your Spirit that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (Aug 23-29)

Creator God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we might have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Aug 30)

O God, whose son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (Aug 30-Sept 5)

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Sept 6)

God before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (Sept 6-12)

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that, by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Sept 13)

O God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (Sept 13-19)

O God, without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HC	MP	EP	HC	MP	EP
13	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [24] Main Readings Exodus 14.19-31 Ps 114 or Exodus 15.1-13, 17-18 Romans 14.1-14 Matthew 18.21-35 [Genesis 50.15-21; Ps 103(1-7) 8-13]	Supplementary Readings \$ Ps 122 \$ Matthew 19.1-12	Exodus 15.19-26 Ps 103.8-13 Romans 14.13 - 15.6	G	
14	Monday G 1 Cor 11.17-26 (27-32) 33 Ps 40.6-11 Luke 7.1-10	Ps 34 Habakkuk 1.1-11 Matthew 4.12-22	Ps 119.17-40 1 Maccabees 1.1-19 Ephesians 1.1-14		
	HOLY CROSS Proper collect Numbers 21.4b-9 Ps 78.1-2, 34-48 or Ps 98.1-6 1 Corinthians 1.18-24 or Philippians 2.5-11 John 3.13-17	Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Good Friday] Ps 98 Deuteronomy 21.22-23 Philippians 2.5-11	Ps 56 Isaiah 63.1-9 John 12.20-36a	R	
15	Tuesday G John Obier Ferhan, <i>fisher and bush brother</i> (d. 1947) 1 Corinthians 12.12-14 (15-20) 27-31a Ps 100 Luke 7.11-17	Ps 37.1-17 Habakkuk 1.12 - 2.5 Matthew 4.23 - 5.12	Collect of a Bishop Ps 37.18-41 1 Maccabees 1.20-40 Ephesians 2.1-10	W	
16	Wednesday G Ninian of Gallinay, <i>bishop and missionary</i> (d. c. 432) 1 Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13 Ps 33.1-5 Luke 7.31-35	Ps 38 Habakkuk 2.6-17 Matthew 5.13-26	Collect of a Missionary Ps 39 1 Maccabees 1.41-64 Ephesians 2.11-22	W	
17	Thursday G Hildegard of Bingen, <i>abbess and spiritual writer</i> (d. 1179) 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Ps 118.14-19 Luke 7.36-50	Ps 40 Habakkuk 2.18 - 3.7 Matthew 5.27-42	Collect of a Monastic Ps 42; 43 2 Maccabees 4.1-17 Ephesians 3.1-13	W	
18	Friday G John Ramsden Williston, <i>priest and missionary of Western Australia</i> (d. 1856)	Ps 41; 44.1-9 Habakkuk 3.8-19 Matthew 5.43 - 6.4	Collect of a Missionary Ps 44.10-27 2 Maccabees 6.1-17 Ephesians 3.14-21	W	
19	Saturday G 1 Cor 15.35-37 (38-40) 42-49 Ps 56.8-12 Luke 8.4-15	Ps 45 Nahum 1.1-14 Matthew 6.5-15	Ps 46; 47 2 Maccabees 6.18-31 Ephesians 4.1-16		

HC	MP	EP	HC	MP	EP
6	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [23] Main Readings Exodus 12.1-14 Ps 149 Romans 13.1-10 Matthew 18.10-20 [Ezekiel 33.7-11; Ps 119.33-40]	Supplementary Readings \$ Ps 74 \$ Matthew 18.1-9	Exodus 13.11-22 Ps 95 Romans 13.11-14	G	
7	Monday G 1 Corinthians 5.1-8 Ps 5.3-7 Luke 6.6-11	Ps 19 Zephaniah 3.11-20 Acts 26.19-32	Ps 119.1-16 Judith 10.14 - 11.6, 20-23 1 John 4.1-12		
8	Tuesday G <i>Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord</i> Proper collect 1 Corinthians 6.1-11 Ps 149 Luke 6.12-19	Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Mary] Ps 20; 21.1-7 (8-13) Obadiah 1-14 Acts 27.1-12	Ps 24; 26 Judith 12.16 - 13.16 1 John 4.13-21	W	
9	Wednesday G 1 Corinthians 7.25-31 Ps 45.10-15 Luke 6.20-26	Ps 22.1-22 Obadiah 15-21 Acts 27.13-32	Ps 22.23-32; 23 Judith 14 1 John 5.1-12		
10	Thursday G 1 Corinthians 8.1-7 (8-9) 10-13 Ps 139.13-18 Luke 6.27-38	Ps 25 2 Chronicles 36.1-14 Acts 27.33-44	Ps 27 Judith 15 1 John 5.13-21		
11	Friday G Mother Esther CHN, <i>founder of the Community of the Holy Name</i> (Melbourne) (d. 1931) 1 Cor 9.16-19 (20-22a) 22b-27 Ps 84.1-7 Luke 6.39-42	Ps 28; 29 2 Chronicles 36.15-23 Acts 28.1-16	Collect of a Monastic Ps 30; 32 Judith 16.1-12 2 John	W	
12	Saturday G 1 Corinthians 10.14-22 Ps 116.11-18 Luke 6.43-49	Ps 33 Isaiah 34 Acts 28.27-31	Ps 31 Judith 16.13-25 3 John		

HC	MP	EP	HC	MP	EP	
23	TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [21] Main Readings Exodus 18- 2:10 Ps 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20 Isaiah 51:1-6, Ps 138	Supplementary Readings § Ps 72 § Matthew 16:1-12	Genesis 50:15 - Exodus 1:7 Ps 138 Romans 11:28-36	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [22] Main Readings Exodus 3:1-15 Ps 103:1-6, 23-26 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28 Jeremiah 15:15-21; Ps 26:1-8 <i>Day of prayer for refugees (General Synod, 2001)</i>	Supplementary Readings § Ps 75 § Matthew 17:14-27	Exodus 11 Ps 63 Romans 12:1-8
24	MONDAY BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE AND MARTYR Proper collect Deuteronomy 18:15- 18 Ps 145:10-18 Revelation 21:9b-14 John 1:45-51 <i>Of the day: G</i> 2 Thess 1:1-5 (6-11b) 11b-12 Ps 96:1-6 Matthew 23:13-22	Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Saints] Ps 97 Isaiah 43:8-13 Matthew 10:1-15	Monday G John Barony, preacher and apiritual writer (d. 1688) Collect of a Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d.651) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Ps 83:1-8 (9-18) Ps 119:97-104 2 Chronicles 34:29 - 35:8a Luke 4:16-30	Collect of a Saint Collect of a Missionary Ps 109:1-5 (6-14) 15-16 Tobit 11 1 John 1	W W	
25	Tuesday G 2 Thess 2:1-3a (3b-13) 14-17 Ps 135 Ps 96:7-13 Matthew 23:23-26	Ps 135 2 Chronicles 32:24-33 Acts 21:15-26	Tuesday G 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-14 Luke 4:31-37	Ps 3:4 Tobit 12 1 John 2:1-11		
26	Wednesday G 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 or 6-10, 16-18 Ps 128 Matthew 23:27-32	Ps 139 Tobit 4 Romans 15:1-13	Wednesday G 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Ps 33:13-21 Luke 4:38-44	Ps 3:6 Zephaniah 1:1-13 Acts 24:10-27	Ps 7:8 Judith 4 1 John 2:12-17	R
27	Thursday G Monica, mother of Augustine (d. 387) 1 Corinthians 11-9 Ps 145:1-7 Matthew 24:42-51	Ps 140 Prayer of Manasseh Acts 21:40 - 22:16	MARTYRS OF NEW GUINEA (d. 1942) Proper collect Zephaniah 3:14-20 Ps 130 Romans 8:33-39 John 12:20-32	Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Saints] Ps 116 Jeremiah 15:15-21 or 2 Maccabees 7:1-14 2 Corinthians 6:1-10		W W
28	Friday G Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher (d. 430) 1 Corinthians 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-8 Matthew 25:1-13	Ps 143; 146 2 Chronicles 33:21 - 34:13 Acts 22:17-30	Thursday G Gregory of Rome, bishop and teacher (d. 604) AAS Elixir Darling, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d. 1868) 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Ps 9 Ps 24:1-6 Luke 5:1-11	Collect of a Bishop Collect of a Saint Ps 10 Judith 8:4-27 1 John 2:18-29	W W	
29	Saturday G The Beheading of John the Baptist 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Ps 33:13-21 Matthew 25:14-30	Collect of a Martyr Ps 145 2 Chronicles 34:14-28 Acts 2:31-31	Friday G 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-7 Luke 5:33-39	Ps 11:12 Zephaniah 2:4-15 Acts 25:13-27	Ps 13:14 Judith 8:28 - 9:14 1 John 3:1-10	Ps 17:1-13 (14) 15-16 Judith 10:1-13 1 John 3:11-24

A Guide to Daily Prayer

What do we mean by 'daily prayer'?

As with Sunday worship, there is a long tradition behind the practice of daily prayer. Daily worship has its roots in the Jewish practise of praying to God at certain prescribed times: morning, afternoon and night. Christianity inherited these hours and encouraged its earliest members to pray at least the morning (*Matins*) and evening (*Vespers*) hours every day. With the rise of monasticism – Christians living together with prayer as their major focus - the hours were gradually extended to also include *Prime* (during the first hour of daylight), *Terce* (at the third hour), *Sext* (at the sixth hour), *None* (at the ninth hour) and *Compline* (immediately before retiring to bed). Monks were able to pray these extra hours because the 'work of their hands' was reserved for the afternoon only. Mornings, on the other hand, were spent in the work of praying the Liturgy of the Hours. That the monastic hours of prayer rarely took on beyond monastery walls is hardly surprising, for most ordinary Christians had *non*-liturgical work to do in both morning and afternoon.

A pattern of daily prayer

Most contemporary patterns for daily prayer are based upon the ancient structures of morning and evening prayer, as these are the hours that can most easily be prayed by the 'secular' people of God. Contemporary patterns also assume that the prayers can be prayed by a congregation but acknowledge that this is rarely possible in our highly mobile world. In the Anglican Church we inherit, via the *Book of Common Prayer*, a broadly catholic approach to daily prayer that is ordered something like this:

Opening verses and responses

Psalms of the day

(read or sung)

Silence

Scripture (Hebrew Bible or New Testament)

Silence

[Morning or evening canticle]

Prayers:

confession,

thanksgiving & invocation ('collect'),

intercessions (prayers for others),

the Lord's prayer

Collect of the morning or evening

Blessing (of God) and dismissal

You will note that this pattern of prayer shares certain similarities with the Sunday service. After

gathering, the prayers give praise to God. Scripture is recited and meditated upon in silence. The prayers that follow may include confession, thanksgiving and petition. The liturgy concludes with a blessing and dismissal. But there are differences when compared with Sunday worship as well. The gathering prayers are relatively brief. More than one Psalm may be recited (up to four, in some traditions). There is only one lection apart from the Psalms. There is no sermon or Eucharist. And the final blessing and dismissal includes a call for the congregation to bless God.

The advantages of using this pattern for prayer

As Protestants of catholic and reformed inheritance, we Anglicans are of course free to use this order or *not* to use this order. In my view, the advantages of using this pattern far outweigh the disadvantages. The advantages include:

- the sense that we are praying in a form, and with a theological purpose, that is shared by the vast majority of Christians around the world, past and present;
- a sense that we are engaging with an expansive range of Scripture across any given year through the use of an agreed list of readings (a lectionary) for daily prayer;
- this pattern guarantees that we will engage with God in and through a full range of divine and human experience: praise, lament, contemplation, confession, thanksgiving, petition and intercession.

The disadvantage, of course, is that such prayer can begin to feel stale or legalistic. In my experience this danger can be mitigated, somewhat, by reminding oneself that free and spontaneous ‘bursts’ of prayer are perfectly legitimate both *within* this structure and beyond it, through the whole business of the day. After all, the apostle encourages us to ‘pray without ceasing’ (1 Thess 5.17), to make our whole lives a conversation with God in which we listen as well as speak.

These short remarks do not, of course, do justice to the astonishing richness of the church’s thinking concerning daily prayer. I hope, nevertheless, that they stimulate you to reconsider your own practice of prayer. I would hope that through your exposure to this pattern of prayer, readily and comprehensively available to you in *A Prayer Book For Australia*, you will learn of yet another deep well of spiritual nourishment by which Christ would satiate the hunger and thirst of his church.

The lectionary for daily prayer

There are various lists of bible readings – or lectionaries - for daily prayer, usually operating on a two or three-year cycle that seeks to engage with the seasons of the Christian year. An easily accessible lectionary that is closely connected to the Revised Common Lectionary for Sunday celebrations, may be perused at <http://www.deverell.net/lectionaries.html>. But the official Anglican lectionary is published each year as *An Australian Lectionary* by Broughton Books. It can be ordered, along with a copy of the Prayer Book itself, from St Peter’s Bookroom (03 9663 7487 or <https://www.bookroom.stpeters.org.au>).

Garry Deverell