



The ABC News^{letter}

Aldgate – Bridgewater – Crafers
The Anglican Parish of Stirling

Mothering Sunday Edition

March 25, 2022

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is also known as Mothering Sunday. There are a range of views on what Mothering Sunday is about. None of them were considered important enough for it to make it into our Prayer Book though. We inherited the tradition from England, where it's a celebration of motherhood. Mostly that involves acknowledging mothers and mother-types (god-mothers, grand- mothers, women who act as mothers, and anyone else who is motherly) in prayers and giving them a bunch of flowers. Ironically it's usually mothers who make up the bunches. Then there is also acknowledging the church as 'mother' in the sense of it being the source and nurturer of our faith. Connected to that is the concept of the cathedral being the 'mother church' of the diocese, so some people might go to 'headquarters' on that Sunday. In the good old days, Mothering Sunday was an occasion on which servants were allowed to have the day off and go and see their family. How sad it is that we no longer have servants. Although we could have been one ourselves!

We can't forget simnel cake either. It's a special cake made for Mothering Sunday. According to cake historians (yes they exist), the purported origins and meaning behind Simnel Cake are as varied as are the descriptions of who the guest person is on *Would I lie to You?*, that is, the explanations vary widely. Some cake historians (cakeorians?) favour the view that Simnel Cake

provides relief from Lenten fasting. Others suggest it's to be eaten in anticipation of the coming of Spring. That doesn't quite work for us in the Southern Hemisphere though. The last tradition worthy of mention is placing balls of marzipan on top to represent Jesus' disciples. There are only eleven, Judas being discounted, at least in a marzipanian sense. I'm not sure what the significance of eating the rest of Jesus' disciples is though.



For me, Mothering Sunday is best celebrated as honouring the church as our mother. She's not always perfect, but it's where our faith comes from. The best way to honour her is to care for her and we do that in various ways that we belong – because the church is us, not just us, but includes us. There is the formal organization, the Anglican Church and then our parish, which is a subset of it, but those are just the formal manifestations of the church as the community of faith. So while we may have problems with the formal expression of church, the church is a lot of

things, such as tradition (which evolves), doctrines, beliefs, worship, customs, but most importantly, people trying to be faithful to God, together. Of all that, the most important thing is we are in relationship together, as the 'body of Christ'. Everything else flows from that. Beliefs are not the starting point.

Andy Wurm



*I love the church. Sometimes she drives me mad
though. Yet I'm still welcome.
That's why she's such a good mother.*

Comments on the readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer of the Day We remember that God will give us the loving acceptance we crave and need, if we allow it, and then we must give that to others.

Joshua 5:2-12 The Israelites who finally entered the Promised Land were descended from those who escaped from slavery in Egypt. Those who escaped from slavery were not granted entry to the Promised Land because they failed to trust in God in the wilderness. Spiritually speaking, they chose 'death' rather than life.

Psalms 32 Connecting with the gospel passage, the psalm speaks of the blessing of God's forgiveness, which comes through trusting God. We must relax into God, rather than needing to be coerced like a horse.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Paul's perspective for looking at people is whether or not they are open

to divine love which sets us free from our compulsions and obsessions.

Luke 15:11-32 We continually face a choice between accepting God's absolute love for us, or the 'world's conditional acceptance. The prodigal son chooses God's love, but only after experiencing the emptiness of the other. God is always waiting for us to come 'home' to our true selves, as sons or daughters of God.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

(The parish AGM)

11am Sunday 27th March

Anne Jolly Hall

Positions to be filled (or re-filled)

People's Warden in each centre

Congregational rep from each centre

Parish Nominators

(serve on committee if new priest is needed)

Diocesan Synod Representatives

(attend Annual meeting of Synod)

SUNDAY LUNCH FOR SINGLES

The venue for SLS has changed again due to 5245 altering their opening days and are not including Sundays. I have booked at the Aldgate Pump Hotel for Sunday, April 3rd, 12 noon as usual.

Barbara Holbourn

HELPERS NEEDED FOR SETTING UP THE PARISH MARKET.

At present there are only a few people doing this. More are needed to share the load.

Set up 8am

Pack up 12 noon

Speak to stall holders or contact the parish office

Shock news

Parish Priest unable to eat Simmel Cake

because he is in isolation AGAIN

and will not be at services on Sunday
to collect a piece of cake.

It could be said that one's patience is being tried.

*'Don't look the other way, O God,
your servant can't take it.*

I'm in trouble. Answer right now!

Come close, God; get me out of here'

Psalm 69: 17-18

The Message translation

Wait, there's more....

The Parish Office may not be open at all the usual times, as Katrina may still be isolating as well

When we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares. Henri Nouwen *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey*

Be a choir mother

The Epiphany choir need a Choir Mother to provide Female Adult Supervision at choir practice, on Thursdays 4.30-6.00pm. Sue Pike is doing this temporarily. If you would like to support the choir, please considering helping out in this way.

MUSIC @ EPIPHANY, CRAFTERS

Jodie & Emlyn O'Regan



SUNDAY, March 27

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Jodie & Emlyn O'Regan are members of the Church agents choir. Jodie also composed the setting of psalm 22 we did at Crafters last year on Good Friday, and the blessing we sang at communion on 6th March. Their concert is more folk music based than those pieces. They are excellent storytellers and musicians.

Emlyn and Jodie O'Regan are an acappella vocal duo who perform unique arrangements drawing on gospel, trad and roots folk, classical choral, jazz and blues. Emlyn and Jodie have performed and run workshops at folk festivals and events around Australia. Emlyn also performs as a classical baritone and Jodie composes vocal, choral and theatre works.

To see on Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/1DUwnMz5B>

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

Please bring our copy to church this Sunday if you have done the paper version or to complete online go to: attendersurvey.ncls.org.au and enter your church code:

Crafers: ANA00901

Bridgewater: ANA 00902

Aldgate: AND00903

SUNDAY SERVICES

TIME	27 th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday <i>Annual Vestry Meeting afterwards</i>	3 rd April Lent 5 End of Daylight Saving	10 th April Palm Sunday
8.30am Aldgate	Wendy	10am Combined Contemporary service at Crafers	Andy
9.00am Bridgewater	Andy		Wendy
10.00am Crafers	Wendy		Lay Assistant starts service, Andy finishes



ABM Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Our partner, Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, has requested assistance as it seeks to respond to this escalating crisis. In response we have launched a tax deductible appeal which will not only seek to restore basic services for conflict-affected people in the Ukraine but also support refugees fleeing the Ukraine into Central Europe. To learn more or to donate, please encourage your parish to access our website at www.abmission.org/ukraine

Parish diary

Saturday 26 March – Parish Hall
1.00 pm to 6.00 pm Shantarasa Yoga TBC

Sunday 27 March:
11.00am Annual Vestry Meeting in Parish Hall
2.30 pm Concert in Parish Hall

Monday 28 March:
9.00-10.00am Meditation @ Bev Armstrong's
7.30pm NA Meeting– Aldgate Hall
7.30-10.30pm Hills Musical - Parish Hall hire

Tuesday 29 March:
7.30pm AA Meeting– Aldgate Hall

Wednesday 30 March:
9.00-10.00am Meditation @ Bev Armstrong's
10.00am Aldgate Service
6pm **No Evening Prayer**, Crafers Church
7.30pm Meditation, Aldgate Hall

Thursday 31 March:
10-12pm U3A French Group – Parish Hall?
1-3pm U3A Circle Dancing- Parish Hall
4pm – Treble Choir?

Saturday 2 April
9.00am – 12 noon Parish Market

Parish Directory

Parish Priest: The Rev'd Andy Wurm [Editor of ABC News]

Assisting Priest: The Rev'd Wendy Morecroft

Prayer chain: Libby Parkin

Hall hire: Barb Riches

Memorial Garden Sexton: Richard Vincent

Wardens **Crafers:** Sue Pike & Steph Loy-Reed

Aldgate: Jeanie Clayton & Malcolm Biggs

Bridgewater: Annie Mann & Kim Read

Parish Office - 8339 1274

Mon 10am - 1 pm; **Tues** Closed **Wed—Thursday**

10am-4pm **Fri** 12.30 - 4pm

