

The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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**The Commissioning of the Rev'd Stephen Moore as priest
in Charge of St Bede's Semaphore by the Rt Rev'd
Sophie Relf-Christopher, on 12 September, 2024.**

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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Stewardship: to be part of our planned giving program please consider making your contribution by direct credit. Direct Credit: BSB 705-077 Account Number 00040467
Please include your name and "donation" or "giving". Contributions during the offertory in the church service is also OK. All giving is kept confidential.

Services

Sundays at 8.00am and 9.30am: Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10.00am: Holy Communion

Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Funerals, Ministry with the Sick, Confession and Reconciliation by appointment with the priest.

Reclaiming the Sacred

The worship of God is at the centre of what we do and who we are at St. Bede's. The Scriptures remind us that from the earliest times, when God reveals himself to his people, he calls them to worship. "Take off your shoes," God says to Moses from the burning bush - directing Moses to perform a simple but profound act of worship.

The style and content of the services at St. Bede's is shaped by the ancient experience of the church and by the present realities of the world. The Mass, or Holy Eucharist, has been the principal act of Christian worship, in some form or another, since the days of the early church when the apostles followed Jesus' instructions to break bread and share wine in remembrance of him. And so this service of praise and thanksgiving is at the very centre of our common life at St. Bede's as it is throughout the church at large.

In the Mass we are invited into the mystery of God's love: that God gave his Son to live and die for the salvation of the world and sent his Holy Spirit to enable, empower, and enliven us in the work of building up his kingdom. When we bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to Mass - in prayer and song, bread and wine, and in our gifts of money - we pray that God strengthens us to follow the most basic commandment: to love him and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Accordingly, the setting for our worship, especially the celebration of the Eucharist, is a truly sacred space.

The altar is not only the table on which the celebration of this Mass takes place; it is a symbol with many dimensions of meaning, for it is the place where we remember the act of perfect love of Christ's offering of himself for the sake of the world.

The altar cloth itself is inscribed with crosses, which suggests that the altar itself symbolizes Christ's body and his presence among us. It is when we gather at the altar in our worship that Jesus forms us - and the whole church - into his Body. The front of the altar is covered (vested) with a cloth of suitable dignity in a colour that signifies the season of the church year. You will see that special care is taken with how we act at the altar, and with sacred vessels that are placed on it.

Now, many people seem confused about what is sacred, as a browse of The

Advertiser illustrates: ‘Some things are sacred: Liz Storer slams Vic school for rewriting national anthem’; ‘Nuns head to Wadeye on sacred mission’; ‘Tourist strips off, bathes in scared shrine’; ‘Sacred birthday party rule parents keep breaking’; and so on.

The word itself is the Latinate form of “holy,” reserved for God and the things of God. In praising him for the divine Son she carried, Mary declared, “Holy is his name.” It is holy places and people – churches and shrines, saints and their relics – that merit devotion and veneration. It is God alone we worship and adore.

The Advertiser’s arrogation of godly language for civil matters follows a recent trend in political discourse. That was perhaps most notable after the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot in Washington. In condemning the attacks, then-House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, referred to the building as a “temple of democracy.” A temple is a place to worship God and, in a specific Judeo-Christian understanding, to offer him sacrifices. The U.S. Capitol is famous, iconic, and worthy of protection and respect. But it isn’t a temple, and democracy isn’t a religion.

Other examples abound, from Donald Trump’s declaring himself the “chosen one” to congressmen condemning anti-Israel demonstrators for “desecrating” various landmarks, not simply defacing or vandalizing them.

Jesus warned against confusing the things of God with the things of Caesar. Yet an increasingly irreligious culture seeks to adopt these orphaned words. In doing so, many give an outsize importance to the things of this world, to civic monuments and political processes. Scripture reminds us that we have no lasting city here and that the world as we know it is passing away.

But if a culture has lost faith in that new Jerusalem, and if this earthly city is our final home, the stakes become much higher. We hear that almost apocalyptic language creeps more regularly into the national discourse: battling for the soul of the nation and warning against existential threats. Such implications of civil salvation or damnation make one’s opponent not merely wrong or in error but evil, someone who must be eliminated, not merely defeated.

To lose faith in and sight of what is truly sacred skews a nation’s perspective, imbuing politics with a quasi-religious importance and its actors with a messianic aura. The misuse of godly language doesn’t attempt only to elevate secular realities; it also denigrates sacred ones. If suddenly everything is sacred, then

nothing is.

A recent, vivid expression of the word and its authentic meaning was on garish display at the Olympics' opening ceremony in Paris. Most notoriously, a performance featured several drag queens assembling themselves after what appeared to be the pattern of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." (The program's artistic director has suggested it wasn't the inspiration, and others have asserted – speciously, to my mind – that it was modelled after another painting, "The Feast of the Gods").

Da Vinci's painting itself isn't sacred, but the event it depicts is. Leaving aside the question of what this pantomime had to do with French culture or athletic achievement, the ensemble was clearly meant to provoke and shock.

That's hardly surprising. A culture that can't create or build up – one that lacks any inspiration toward a sacred it cast aside long ago – is reduced to mocking what came before. It can only tear down and destroy. How fitting, then, that the same opening ceremony featured a macabre rendition of Marie Antoinette holding and singing from her guillotined head.

The organizers evidently had no qualms about reminding the world of Paris's darkest hour. But the imagery was ironically pitch-perfect. We have become a decapitated culture, cut off from our sacred head, calling once more to crucify our King. The temple has become a den of thieves who have raided the treasury but have no idea what to do with the treasure.

These events show us that when we lose a sense of the sacred and lack even the language to describe it, we quickly descend into confusion and chaos: false pieties, pseudo-saviours and a heritage that becomes the plaything of clichéd provocateurs.

Only a recovery of the authentically holy, an Olympic task itself, will keep our culture from drifting.

Fortunately, we have a model in another Olympic Games held in Paris 100 years ago, when Scottish sprinter Eric Liddell refused to race on Sunday to keep holy the Sabbath. His refusal to violate his own conscience and what his Christian tradition viewed as a sacred commandment reminds us all of what that word means. It isn't, whatever our politicians might say, a fancy synonym for special. – **Fr. Stephen.**

A letter from Julie Moore (sent via email to Dorothy Thorpe)

It was a very special evening! I simply do not have the words to describe the feelings and the emotion of the evening as Stephen was commissioned as Priest at St. Bede's. We are still on cloud 9. It was a service so rich in meaning and rituals, music, hymns and flowers. All of us, together (Bishop Sophie, Clergy, Parishioners, special guests, dignitaries, and the Trinity guests from America), participated and celebrated in Stephen's new ministry and our service to St. Bede's. Bishop Sophie's sermon was rich with meaning. "This was the right time for St. Bede's and Stephen.

Dorothy, heartfelt thanks to you, Karen, Georgie, Diana, Ken, Greg and Judith, Colin and the entire Parish Community for all that you did to make the day so very special for Stephen and me. You put your heart and soul into everything.

To everyone, thank you for the beautiful pink Cyclamen plant resting in soil in the most lovely pot. And, yes, I am settling in happily and joyful to be among and with each person at St. Bede's!

Stephen is a good and kind man with a love for God. He is a loving leader and a good listener. This will be a gentle time of getting to know one another. With God's blessings, we will all be happy! As Stephen begins his ministry, we will continue to grow in our faith with our unique expressions of care, support and love for one another and engagement with the seaside community.

I have attached a bunch of pictures from the service. I hope you will enjoy them.

A warm welcome on the first Sunday at St Bede's



Julie chats with Alan and Fr Stephen with Maggie.

Once again, Stephen and I are so grateful and giving praise and thanks to God for now being a part of the beautiful St. Bede's Parish Community. Thank you for your warm welcome

Bishop Sophie's Sermon at the Commissioning of the Rev'd Stephen Moore as priest in Charge of St Bede's

The right time

The parish of Semaphore has waited some time for Stephen to arrive. But it was not yet time. St Bede's has been clothing people on the margins, feeding hungry people, and also offering faithful sacramental ministry. St Bede's has been committed to serious community engagement, offering a flourishing garden, sometimes a place to drop off difficult recycling, and occasionally somewhere for the students in formation to receive instruction. Among other things.

St Bede's has been keeping the home fires burning **for this night**. The Parish of Semaphore has waited some time for Stephen to arrive. But it was not yet time. In fact, he did not know that one day, St Bede's Semaphore would be waiting for him.

Stephen worked in journalism and finance before being ordained in 2004 in the Diocese of Newcastle. He served in parish ministry and as an ADF Chaplain in NSW. In 2026 when he moved to the US, Stephen was Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania. In 2024, in Semaphore, Adelaide, the Anglicans were growing restless, and finally, it was their time.

It is strange to be in a parish without an incumbent, even when you have received excellent care from locums. There is pressure on a parish as they wait. On the other side of the coin, it is a strange thing to be a priest without a wobbly church desk on which to put your chipped mug full of tea as you bang out a homily. There is nothing wrong with either of these pictures per se. A parish is still a parish without Stephen, and Stephen is still himself without St Bede's, but together...they will learn to grow in vision and hope. They will stop being me and them and start being US.

Put other's needs first

This evening in Romans 15, we heard two themes. First, we are most strongly encouraged to put other's needs before our own, and second, we were charged to prioritise living in harmony. No doubt you have heard Bishop William Temple's famous quote: "The Church exists primarily for



the sake of those who are still outside it". But perhaps the second part of that quote is less well known. "It is a mistake to suppose that God is only , or even chiefly, concerned with religion."

I do not know everything about Stephen, nor do I know every detail about you at St Bede's but I know both of you by your fruits. I know that for his part Stephen has lived a life of service and devoted himself wholeheartedly to serving Christ. Equally, I

know that you exist for the people beyond your doors of St Bede's Semaphore. And what is more, you know it!

So to St Paul's first request "to put others' needs before your own", you are on solid ground, and I urge you to press on in that matter together. And to the second request of Paul, "prioritise living in harmony". Well, the beginning of any marriage is the part of the fastest growth and change. Each will learn to trust the other...and each will soon know that the other is worthy of appreciation. I encourage you to move as quickly as you can to positive assumptions about each other, because you are each of you—parish and priest—worthy of that.

This was the right time for St Bede's and for Stephen, and we pray St Paul's words over the priest and people together tonight.

Let us pray.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, that together, you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



Using our new TV system , a representative of Fr Stephen's last parish, Gulph Mills, Philadelphia, took part in the Presentation with a greeting. Then our wardens, Dorothy and Karen, presented Fr Stephen to Bishop Sophie. Relf-Christopher.

Bishop Sophie installed Fr Stephen as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Semaphore. Area Dean, the Rev'd Zinkoo Han holds the bishop's staff. Visiting clergy were in the choir pews. Dr Deborah Osman was organist.

Parishioners presented symbols of ministry to Fr Stephen: Jessica Rose- Bible, Brenda Beer - Prayer Book, Anne Muir- Water, Sally Pentland—Bread and wine, Judith Manning -The purple stole, and Fay Warren- the holy oils.



Others involved in the service were John Pentland –banner bearer, Diana Geier and Terry Henning acolytes, Colin Lehmann– crucifer. Readers were Greg Manning, Georgie Stamp, and Sue Henry-Edwards. Fr Gwilym Henry -Edwards was among the robed clergy which included a fellow student of Fr Stephen from St. John's College Morpeth and an ADF colleague.

Photos: John Pentland, Julie Moore



The Community Space was ideal for prayers after the service. At previous commissioning services the clergy have had to gather outside the church because of lack of space.

Thanks to all who brought food, helped prepare the hall and to clean up after a very happy time at supper.



Julie Moore chats with visitors.



Above: Jack Monaghan who gave greetings on behalf of Anglicare.



Left: Lots of conversation over supper, with the clergy, visitors and parishioners.

“Fr Stephen has been a tertiary of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis since 2007”

When this was announced by our Archbishop in late August, some people did not know about the Society of St Francis. Here is an abridged piece from their website. There are other tertiaries of the Third Order in South Australia. Bp John Stead, the previous bishop of Willochra is a tertiary of the Third Order.

A Welcoming Community (from tssf.com.au)

“The Order sets out, in the name of Christ, to break down barriers between people and to seek equality for all. We accept as our second aim the spreading of a spirit of love and harmony among all people. We are pledged to fight against the ignorance, pride and prejudice that breed injustice or partiality of any kind”. Principles Day 7.

“Members of the Third Order fight against all injustice, in the name of Christ in whom there can be neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for in him all are one. Our chief object is to reflect that openness to all which was characteristic of Jesus”.

The Third Order is an inclusive community where ALL who are called by God to follow Jesus in the Franciscan way are welcome to explore this vocation.

About the Third Order

Early in his ministry Francis of Assisi recognised the need to include within his movement of reform and renewal people who lived the common life. The work of following Christ in simplicity, love and joy could not be restricted to the traditional religious life of the Friars and Sisters.

This was true in the twelfth century and it remains so today; it is the vocation of all Christians.

THE THIRD ORDER consists of any people, men or women, married or single, priests or laity; who though following the ordinary professions of life feel called to a life-long dedication under a definite discipline and vows. The dedicate themselves to our Lord as Instruments of His Peace.

St Bede's Day Out to Sala

10 parishioners started the Day out at Sarah's Sister's Sustainable Café on a Monday morning in August, to start the day with coffee. The art work there was vibrant floral murals and ornamental hanging pots. Lovely but expensive!



We moved on to four exhibitions in Port Adelaide. At Pirate Life Brewery we really enjoyed the decorated skateboards and were amazed at the ingenuity of the artists. The one in the photo is called , “Don't leave your skateboard at Grandma's” A closer look reveals that it is all crochet. Good on ya Grandma.

At Mill edge's Distillation we viewed a great number of still life drawings, mainly in charcoal. They were very good but I found them a little monotonous

The display at Mark Lobert Gallery, was described as “A mesmerising display of vibrant landscapes, floral compositions and expressive nudes” was really inspirational. We are sorry to hear the Gallery is shifting to Hahndorf because we thoroughly enjoyed the various large and vibrant works on display. Some of us came away with greeting cards featuring his paintings.

The outing ended at the Exeter Hotel on Semaphore Road where a few others joined us for lunch. Conversation was lively and the food ample.



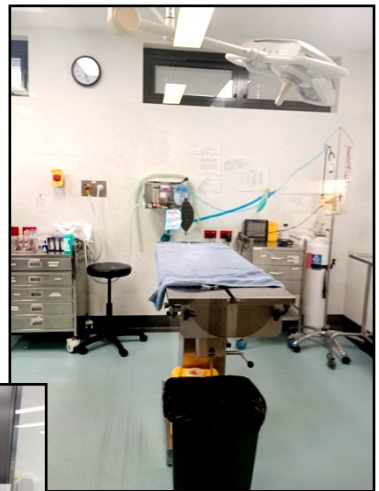
We send our love to Bev and Roger Hayes as they mourn the loss of their daughter Jo.

A Visit to the Animal Welfare League by Diana Geier

The Animal Welfare League was founded by Joy Richardson in 1964 who saw a need for the many abandoned dogs, cats and rabbits to be cared for. She stated, “We cannot be happy until we manage to make as many people as possible, conscious of the world of animals.” So began a lifetime of making people aware. Her first shelter was on Magill Road. My sister (who rescued many animals) met and worked with Joy but as a separate entity focusing on the plight of abandoned and undesexed cats. The feral cat problem is a ‘people problem’).

Dorothy Thorpe and I attended a 60th anniversary function at the AWL in September. After the welcome we were given a tour of the incredible new facilities. Joy Richardson would be blown away if she saw what her original need has become.

They have state of the art operating theatres and treatment rooms. We went upstairs where the cats waiting for desexing/ treatment and then adoption are kept. One put its little head out of its container to see what the fuss was about. The young volunteer who led our group was saying they were gearing up for 5000 kittens as the season begins. The cat and



dog management board don't appear to have a handle on this problem. “There are voluntary groups out there (C.A.T.S—Cat Assistance to Sterilise,



“ SACR-Cat Rescue and Adoption, and Paws and Claws and others but so many animals need to be euthanised,” said the young volunteer who was quite upset.

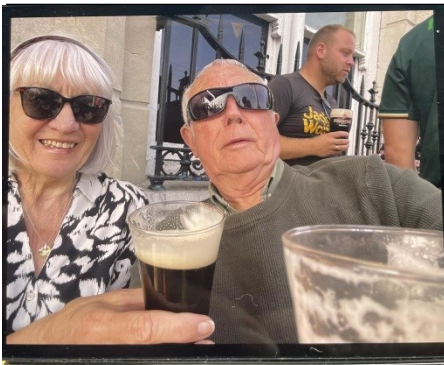
Rene Descartes famously declared, “I think, therefore I am”,. He and his followers believed that reason was the essence of human life, and we did not have any kind of obligation to creatures. Animals, he argued, did not have souls. I feel that St Francis of Assisi would not agree. Look deep into your pet’s eyes as you feed or talk to them, As I used to say

to my many upper primary classes over the years, “Humans are at the top of the animal kingdom, but they are the cruellest—to the environment, their young, and each other.” You don’t have to like animals, but cruelty diminishes you as a human, not the animal.

In the Bible, we read that God creates human and animal life. We are all part of that overarching concept of creation, of life itself.

Psalm 36: God shall save both man and beast alike.

The AWL is a registered charity that does not receive government funding but depends on the support and generosity of the community.



Joan and Peter Whalley, our Manchester parishioners, on a cruise around the British Isles on the Queen Mary 2, from Southampton, -Edinburgh, Inverness, Isle of Sky, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cobh near Cork, and Southampton. Peter and Joan just had to have a glass of their finest stout in Cobh before returning to the ship for dinner.

Special Days in October

4 October: **St Francis of Assisi**, friar and preacher (d.1226) founded the Franciscan Order. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant, Francis as a youth, assisted his father in running his business, but was also a leader of society in his town. In a war between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was taken prisoner for a year and was seriously ill. Soon after, riding fully equipped, he turned back from the war, risking the accusation of cowardice. Already his regard for the poor and for lepers was conspicuous. A little later he seemed to hear a voice coming from the Byzantine-style crucifix in the small semi-derelict church of San Damiano of Assisi, "Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down." Francis set about the task, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for the materials. This led to a prolonged conflict with his father which was only resolved when Francis dramatically renounced his inheritance, and even his clothes. The bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments and Francis began his new life." (*The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*)

Google Francis of Assisi for his life as a monk and itinerant preacher.

12 October: **Elizabeth Fry**, prison reformer, England (d. 1845)

18 October: **Luke**, evangelist and martyr

19 October: **Henry Martyn**, missionary and Bible translator in India and Persia (d. 1812)

23 October: **James of Jerusalem**, brother of our Lord, martyr (d. c. 62)

24 October: **United Nations Day** inaugurated,

28 October: **Simon and Jude**, Apostles and martyrs

31 October: **Martin Luther** (d. 1546) and other Continental Reformers.

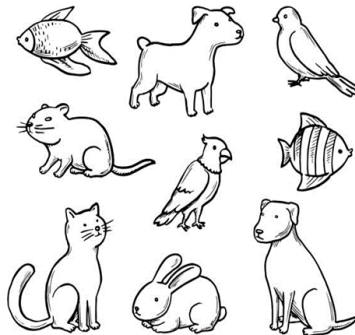
*Please bring the animal members of your family
to this AWESome event*

St Bede's Pet Blessing

on Sunday 6 October at 2.00pm in the grounds of
St Bede's Anglican Church

200 Military Road, Semaphore.

All companion animals are welcome



Free sausage sizzle No need to register

Contact: 0457 501 397