

The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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On 22 September, 2024, Magnus Turner-Moody was baptised in the church where his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents worshipped for many years. Magnus, we give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness forever.

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

Parish Priest: The Rev'd Stephen Moore, priest in charge. 0409441246. Email: frstephensemaphore@gmail.com

Wardens: Karen Fagan 0405 564 979 Dorothy Thorpe 0457 510 397

Musician: Judith Pennington , Dr Deborah Osman

Parish Councilors: Colin Lehmann (Treasurer), Greg Manning, Georgina Stamp, Diana Geier, Ken Holds

Parish Office: Telephone 8449 5064

Email: office@stbedessemaphore.org.au. Secretary : Karen Fagan

St Bede's Anglican Parish, PO Box 111, Semaphore SA 5019.

Facebook: stbedessemaphore Webpage www.stbedessemaphore.org.au
Karen Fagan webmaster

Bede's Bazaar Co-ordinator: Judith Pennington 0488 195 776

Community Garden: Contact St Bede's on 8449 5064 for details.

Breakfast@StBede's: Contact Dorothy Thorpe 0457 501 397

The Morning Star Editor: Dorothy Thorpe 0457 501 397

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
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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.

Bless You

What am I doing when I bless animals, backpacks, bikes ... and you? I do it a lot: people stop me in the street and ask for a blessing; homeowners want their new house blessed. As an ADF chaplain I blessed a squadron of pilots, crew and support personnel before deployment, soldiers in foxholes on exercises, and even The Queen Elizabeth and her crew when she docked at Newcastle, NSW. At every service I say 'Bless' or 'Blessed' 17 times. We sneeze and someone will likely say 'Bless you'. Within the liturgical life of the church, various things are "blessed," including (every week) God's people at the end of the eucharist.

So why do we bless things and each other? What exactly is a blessing?

Blessing as a concept seems to be a bit like trigonometry: it's good that we have it, but no one (especially me) really understands how it works. To be sure, seeking an exact definition for a blessing is a fool's errand. It's more art than a science, and those who would seek a mechanical definition for blessing will search in vain.

To begin with, the answer to why we bless is because it's biblical. The practice has a biblical precedent, and the list of things blessed (including God) in the Hebrew Scriptures is long. It's a two-way street between the divine and humanity. At times, people bless God. At other times, God blesses people; and still at other times, some object or person is blessed by another person.

Depending upon what is being blessed, the meaning of that act might change. For example: blessing God has a different meaning than blessing a bicycle. Why? Because God does not need blessing – God already exists in eternal and infinite blessedness. And yet the Psalms (and numerous other scripture passages) bless God repeatedly: "Bless the Lord, O my soul" (Psalm 103). The bicycle, on the other hand, exposes its rider to risks as he or she heads off into the world, and so a blessing in that case means something different (bicycles don't appear in the canonical Psalms, of course, but do appear in the Apocryphal 152nd Psalm, believe it or not). In this case, blessing is an intention for good: for safety, for enjoyment, for health.

Next, blessing is worth doing, despite not having a precise definition. "Blessing" something is an example of the *lex orandi, lex credendi* ("the law of prayer establishes the law of belief").

For a very long time, Christians had a greater capacity to hold mysterious things that were in tension with one another in their daily religious life. Blessing is a good example. We search for a definition, when the definition is more rightly in the doing (*lex orandi*), not the explaining. Through doing, the various meanings (and there are many) become clear.

Blessing God might mean something different in grief or in joy; blessing a bicycle may mean something different to a teenager than to someone older; holding an object that has been blessed might mean something very different to one who is struggling as opposed to one who is not.

In this way, the definition is subjective and should be, because God (the fount of all power in every blessing) is not confined by any single explanation.

Words of blessing carry power. In the Hebrew Scriptures and in Jesus' own Judaism, "speaking" a thing brings it into being. "Guard the door of my lips" (Psalm 141) isn't just advice on how to be a nicer person. It is a warning that the words that cross our lips have power: the power to build up or destroy, the power to influence the future (and, in Jesus' resurrection, the past, too). The child's rhyme "...sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" is simply wrong. Words do carry power. Words influence who we are, how we are shaped, how we are formed in faith and held in love.

In the positive, God the Father speaks the ultimate Word: Jesus himself. Christ Jesus is the freeing and liberating Word of the Gospel, a Word that carries unlimited power for good. Jesus – this Word – speaks blessing (an intention for life) into the cosmos and is himself the blessing that the Father speaks.

The "Blessing of the Animals" we commemorated on October 6 was not a standalone event. It is tied to the observance of St. Francis of Assisi the blessing of saints and of the creation are intertwined.

By blessing things in the regular rhythm of our life, we're tapping into the blessing of Jesus himself who – at the Ascension – raises his hands in blessing to the world that God so dearly loves.

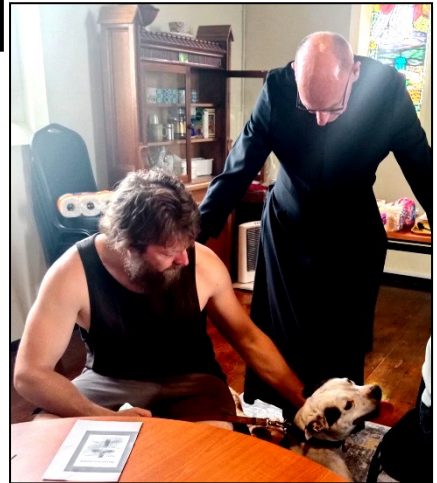
So, bless away. Bless early and bless often! Most of all: receive the blessing from God to you, in everything, waking and sleeping. - **Fr. Stephen.**



Above :Ros and Andrew brought much-loved Motza for a blessing.

Right and below right: Dog lovers from the Semaphore community responded to our invitation to come with their pets. Fr Stephen welcomed all creatures great and small.

Below: Georgie and Irene with their beautiful canine companions.



We prayed St Francis' prayer :

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:...”

We enjoyed a sausage sizzle and admired each other's pets.

Parish news#

On 9 October the **Parish Council** dealt with a number of minor matters: a working bee in the vestry garden, the removal of the fire hydrants to the porch, work on the floor by Colin Lehmann, care of the pews by Luise Humby, and the usual reception of reports. See p.7 for major motion.

Fr Stephen's report included his activities in the first month of his tenure and his plans for ongoing Christian formation which includes **Reimagining Christmas** and a proposed **Alpha** course in Lent., co-operating with St Paul's, Port Adelaide and a stewardship campaign . Fr Stephen was looking forward to a retreat at Sevenhill on 15-16 October.

Diana Geier, Greg Manning, Georgie Stamp , Karen Fagan and Dorothy Thorpe attended the **Archbishop's forum for lay leaders** at St John's, Salisbury in early October. The agenda included the diocesan vision and missiology, , updates on insurance (high next year, but renegotiated from 2025) and work health and safety, and clergy mentoring and development. The Rev. Helen Phillips gave ideas for being a welcoming church.



It is lovely to see **Gloria Datson** back at the Wednesday service and **Ila Neighbour** returning to worship at 9.30 during October. We are glad you are both returning to better health.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the **catering for Mr Vee's record fair** over the long weekend: Diana, Ros, Judy, Fay, Karen, Luise, Judith Manning, and Dorothy. \$470.05 was the result of their efforts.

Thanks too to **Tina McKiernan from the Community Garden** who has pruned and is caring for our front garden plants as a volunteer.

Many thanks to **Joe Humby** for his continuing support of minor maintenance issues. (a door under the stage, the wonky altar rail in the chapel.)

Colin Lehmann was commissioned on 13th October as the Lead Acolyte. He has been assisting the other lay assistants in serving at the altar.

The Shape of the Future

Ask anyone in Semaphore what they know about St. Bede's and it's odds-on they will give one answer: Bede's Breakfast. The reputation and recognition of the church's community outreach – a Gospel-inspired service that's been offered for more than 60 years – is our defining activity and the public face of St. Bede's.



What is said, prayed, sung and celebrated in the church itself throughout the week is expressed by action next door in the hall at the weekly community breakfast and daily at the op shop. The New Testament has a lot to say about this, and rightly so, for Jesus' call is to serve, for in serving others, we are serving God. It's as straightforward as that. The Gospel is much more than a text to read on Sunday. It is to be lived with those who have been damaged, rejected and marginalized, and who are living on the edges of our community.

When you stand on footpath on the western side of Military Road and look across the street what you see are actually two centres of ministry. On the left is the church, where liturgical ministry is personal, often introverted, predictable, largely standardized, and sacramental; on the right is the hall where ministry (as service) is loud, unpredictable, busy and boisterous. This building is smaller than the other but – by the grace of God – is more popular and in greater demand.

Neither can exist without the other, and both source their reason for being to the same conviction. It's reasonable to say, 'Let's leave everything as it is, why change what is already working?' but that's a question that sidesteps two compelling forces: that the Gospel is not just food and clothing but encounter that changes and helps improve the lives of those in need; and secondly, that the parish must have greater certainty of income in order to

grow. Taking these twin imperatives into account – the Gospel’s demand to grow by serving, and the economic importance for financial growth to keep St. Bede’s in existence – the parish council has decided to take the bold but essential initiative of starting an investigation of how best to respond.

At its October meeting it approved a non-binding inquiry through a working group convened by Greg Manning and Fr. Stephen into the feasibility of re-developing the St. Bede’s site with the twin goals of: Enlarging the church’s outreach to the community, and; Providing an increased revenue flow to pay for future ministry.

The working group will co-opt members from within and outside the parish and consult with the broader community and diocese, as necessary. The parish council wants to be kept informed of its progress at each of its meetings.

The idea of looking at different ways to develop the hall and car park areas in particular in order to provide an income for the church while continuing to serve community needs was one of seven objectives in the Parish Profile released earlier this year. In addition, a discussion paper on future scenarios for St. Bede’s raised the option of the lease or sale of the site for perhaps a multi-purpose building of several levels that could include a child-care centre and retail/residential apartments.

What does all this mean? A lot of talking! Stage One involves hearing the point of view of everyone – we’re all stakeholders in the parish with an equal say – before the end of the year. Hopefully, we will reach a consensus in the coming months, and if so, this will lead to Stage Two: a mission action plan prepared with the help of the diocese to define St. Bede’s visionary outreach, and a feasibility study looking at development options, with costing options. met with our collective imagination, engagement, commitment, and determination. Exciting times! **Don’t miss the November 24 vestry meeting to start talking about The Plan, 11am. ` Greg Manning and Fr. Stephen.**

**A star, a stable, angels,
shepherds, kings and,
at the heart of it all, a
mother and her baby.**

Our novel, four-part seasonal Bible discussion-dinner formation series, starting at the eve of Advent on November 26, takes you deep into the story of the original Christmas, as depicted by some of the world's greatest paintings. You'll be



challenged – enlarged – by each artist's interpretation, from the wonder of the Annunciation to the miracle of the Nativity. The reflections accompanying the paintings cover the different ways in which 21 renowned artists over the centuries have imagined the Incarnation of Christ, and will deepen as well as refresh your appreciation of the meaning of Christmas and its message of love, joy, and peace that speaks to everyone.

The series is being very generously hosted by Joe and Luise Humby at their home each Tuesday from November 26 to December 17. Each begins at 6pm with a buffet meal and around 7, Fr. Stephen takes us on this discovery of each painting (projected on a large audio visual monitor) as we journey together to a re-imagined Christmas.

Please call Luise (0414 697 675) **by November 22** to let her know you're coming – there's a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you'd like to bring along something to share.

The Mugs of St Bede's

Earlier this year in 'Volunteers Week', Katrina Dal Lago, the Librarian at St Barnabas' Theological College, gave me and the other library volunteers a mug with a photo of the building on it. I was surprised to learn that they can be made to order at Kmart for \$6 in plain white or \$8 with coloured handle and interior. What a great idea as gifts and 'merchandise' for our church I thought and so began to make them for St Bede's.



I made two for parting gifts for Father Max which included photos of him conducting his special services. The photos of the church were from Professor Paul Scott's website available via a link from our website. Dorothy advised that I should seek his permission to use them which he duly gave with the proviso that we include his website address on the photos.

I made some more which included the dual windows of St George and St Luke for Judith and other friends with connection to the St Luke window. The latest mugs have the St Bede's window and the 'Marriage and Baptism' windows. The first two of these were given to Father Stephen and Julie as welcome gifts. Julie graciously said that their "coffee tasted better in them". Since then some have been put in Bede's Bazaar for sale, some have been sold after church and Terry and Joyce ordered four for their recent wedding anniversary.

We now have two varieties in stock for gifts or sale and a batch with reversed images that Kmart gave us for free available in our op shop. Karen has suggested they will make good Christmas presents so I am willing to take orders for more of the current stock or I could make more using any of our windows on Paul Scott's website -<https://paulscottinfo.ipage.com/adelaide/churches/stbedes/index.html> .

So – if you are interested, please let me know and we can set up an order form at the back of the church. Most people seem to think \$15 is ok for a coloured mug so I guess \$12 would be ok for a white one.

Greg Manning

Our Cruise on the Queen Mary 2 by Joan and Peter Whalley

We joined the Queen Mary 2 at Southampton on Friday 30 August for a cruise around the British Isles. We arrived at our first destination, Queensferry, on Sunday 1 September and were pleasantly surprised to find that we were anchored close to the Firth of Forth Bridge. We were taken ashore by a tender and had a walk around the town. As we left the anchorage late that day, there was a medical disembarkation. A helicopter airlifted the patient off the ship. We didn't hear any more after that, hopefully, the patient made a full recovery.



The next day, we arrived at Invergordan where we caught a bus into Inverness. The weather was disappointing so after a wander around Inverness, we grabbed a coffee, then went back to the ship. Then we spent two days at sea taking a scenic cruise around the Isle of Skye.

Our next stop was Greenock on 5 September. We booked an open top deck bus tour around the area of Inverclyde. Fortunately it stayed dry.. Our arrival at Liverpool on 6 September was very exciting. The weather was beautiful and we had a great welcome. As we approached the River Mersey we were guided in with a water cannon salute from the tugs as a mark of



respect for the Cunard Flagship, celebrating her 400th transatlantic crossing. There were large Head. We were greeted by three majestic Grade II listed buildings—the Royal Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building- “The Three Graces”. We planned another open top deck bus tour around the city. We know Liverpool well as we’ve visited here many times. The guide was superb which helped make it a very enjoyable trip.

8 September was another day at sea so what did we see? We saw the sea!; got some laundry done. There’s a laundry room on each deck which was very handy. I met a lady and a gentleman there, not together, both from Adelaide! I also met a couple from Melbourne.

There was another medical emergency that afternoon so a helicopter was scrambled from Holyhead, Anglesey to airlift a passenger to hospital. There was a request from the Medical Response Team on Monday night for people to donate blood. It sounded urgent. On Thursday morning there was another request for the medical response team to attend the bridge on Deck 12 to attend a visiting passenger. No helicopter this time!

On 9 September we came to Cobh, pronounced “Cove”, near Cork. It was a beautiful start to the day. The ship was within yards of the town so there was lots to see on foot. We walked, well, more like climbed to Colman’s Cathedral set high up from the town. There were some



really interesting dwellings, very colourful. We made our way back to the ship for lunch then went back ashore for a drink at a traditional Irish pub and a spot of people watching. Boy, that glass of Guinness tasted good followed by a Jameson whiskey ‘on the rocks’, - a fabulous day! We left the berth at Cobh at 6.30pm for Southampton, arriving there in the early hours of the morning, disembarking and journeying home. It took some time to get used to being at home

after experiencing 12 days of sheer luxury. **Peter and Joan are in Adelaide now on a 6 weeks visit with their family. Welcome back to St Bede’s, Joan and Peter**

Vale Claire Smith

Long-time parishioner Claire Smith died on 3 October 2024 and Fr Stephen conducted the funeral at St Bede's on Thursday 31 October. We will remember Claire's gracious ways, her faithful heart, and her active ministry with the op shop and other ministries at St Bede's.

Celebrations

Congratulations!

Joyce and Terry Hemmings celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. Fr Stephen blessed them on this happy occasion in October.



On 20 October, Fr Stephen said a prayer of blessing for **Judith Pennington's** birthday (19 October) and **Dorothy Thorpe's** birthday (22.) Dorothy is having a drawn-out celebration of the biggest "0" of her life so far, beginning with a trip to Canberra with friends where



she enjoyed the musical Chicago, Floriade and the Gauguin exhibition. Then two special dinners with family and special friends, and a family trip to Uluru planned for the cooler weather in April.

Congratulations to **Ros and Andrew DeGaris**, on the birth of their grandson Peter.

Bon Voyage!



Wishing **Kath Wilson** a great trip back "home"
Come safely back to us!

PARISH DATES

November 24

Vestry meeting to discuss site re-development opinions, 11am, the narthex

November 26, December 3, December 10, December 17

'Re-imagining Christmas' dinner-discussion series, 6pm, Luise & Joe's

December 15 Christmas parish morning tea, 11am

December 17 Breakfast@St. Bede's Christmas

December 22 Nativity Play, 4pm, narthex party to follow

December 24 A Festive Celebration of Readings and Carols with Holy Eucharist,

December 25 Said Holy Eucharist, 10am



Breakfast@StBede's Bus Trip to Barossa Bowland22/10/24



Remembrance Day

On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender. The conflict had mobilised over 70 million people, left between 9 and 13 million dead, and as many as one third of these with no grave.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day after World War Two to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day. We will remember them. Lest we forget.

In Australia, on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993, Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11.00am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence.

John McCrae was born on November 30, 1872. A Canadian doctor and teacher who served in World War I, he is best known for his memorial poem "In Flanders Fields." He died on January 28, 1918.



In Flanders fields John McCrae (1915)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid- the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunsets glow,
loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
to you from failing hands, we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break the faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields



Special days in November

1. **All Saints** (may be celebrated on Sunday 3rd)
2. **All Souls**
4. **Day for Australian Anglicans and Roman Catholics to pray for one another** (General Synod 2001)
8. **Saints, martyrs, missionaries and teachers of the Anglican Communion.**
11. **Martin, Bp of Tours (d. 387); Remembrance Day**
12. **Charles Simeon, evangelist (d. 1836)**
16. **Margaret of Scotland, queen, helper of the poor. d. 1093**
19. **Elizabeth of Hungary , princess and philanthropist d.1231**
23. **Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr d.c 100**
24. **Christ the King**
25. **James Noble, pioneer Aboriginal deacon d. 1941**