

The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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Detail from 'The Nativity' by Gerbrand van den Eeckhout (1621-1674), a Dutch Golden Age painter and a favourite student of Rembrandt.

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

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

Parish Office: Telephone 8449 5064

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

Facebook: [stbedessemaphore](https://www.facebook.com/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 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.

Parish News

The Parish Council met on 13 November with all members present (Ken Holds on Zoom). The council dealt with usual financial matters and received reports from the wardens and the priest. Items of particular interest include

- The Alpha course to be held next year for 9 weeks beginning in February. It will be held at alternate venues—St Bede’s and St Paul’s—beginning with a meal provided by the host at 6.00 pm. It will be led by the Rev’d Wayne Phillips.
- *Reimagining Christmas* will be a 4 week Advent series in the church at 6.00pm beginning with a shared meal. We will consider the implications of various artistic interpretations of the nativity stories.
- The council agreed that the Archbishop be requested to license Dorothy Thorpe to administer the reserved sacrament for those who cannot attend worship.
- It was reported that Mr Joe Thorp (diocesan registrar) and Mr Raffaele Angelino (diocesan property manager) have met with Fr Stephen and several council members. They are enthusiastic about our objectives of maximising the St Bede’s site both for mission and for income. The diocese will be very supportive of what we would like to do once we have established a Mission Action Plan after extensive consultation. Joe Thorp was impressed with our beautiful church and the way it has been cared for.

Karen Fagan hosted the local Schools Ministry Group in the narthex for a meeting on Friday 15th November.

We wished Sue and Fr Gwilym Henry-Edwards “Bon voyage!”. They left on 14 November, flying first to Manchester, before joining their son Aneuryn and his family in The Netherlands. They will be away for two months.

Our best wishes go to Luise Humby who is presently unwell, Luise has valiantly taken the lead in keeping the pews and brass clean in the church all year, even when unwell. We hope you get help soon Luise.

We welcome Catherine Wingate to the parish. Catherine (originally from Adelaide) has moved to Semaphore South from Tasmania.

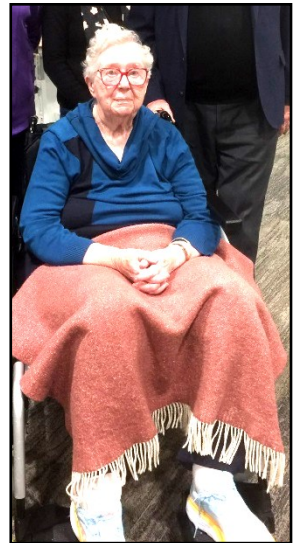
In November, Brian Wheatley, the President of the Rotary Club of Regency Park presented Dorothy (Chair of Management Committee) and



Jak (Co-ordinator) of Breakfast@StBede's with a gift of \$800 to celebrate Christmas with the Breakfast Community. Through the year Jack Kelso from the Rotary Club delivers a steady supply of San Remo products like pasta and noodles for our community and others in need. This support is really appreciated.

Our condolences go to Anne Duncanson's family. Anne died on 13 November after several years in

Wesley House at Semaphore Park. In her decades at St Bede's Anne freely gave of her many gifts including cooking and sewing and she is remembered with affection. Fr Stephen had celebrated communion with Anne and Dorothy just the week before. Her funeral will be on 9 December at 2.00pm at St Bede's. May the light of God's countenance shine upon her for ever more.



Welcome home to Kath Wilson on her return from a few weeks in the UK.

The next site development consultation will be on Sunday 19 January 2025 after morning tea after the 9.30 service. We welcome people from the 8,00 am congregation to morning tea and to stay for the open-ended discussion about the future.

St Bede's Site Development Consultation:

Notes from the meeting of 24 November 2024:

Our objective: "Mission and money"

Additional aim: to let people know the source of hope they have in Christ.

Long-term ideas

1. Greg's vision: a building of several storeys with underground parking, a hall and community space, apartments/offices above, perhaps a penthouse rectory, and a rooftop garden
2. Possible services from rented offices: Mental health services, health services (doctors, specialists) housing services, employment services, legal services, mothers and babies, domestic violence support
3. Overnight stay provision for homeless
4. Lease land for business development (e.g. service station)
5. Child care centre
6. Commercial parking
7. Be creative with the crypt
8. Shift roses into the vestry garden and enlarge the northern carpark
9. Remove the community garden
10. Lease land for business development

Who can we partner with?

Involve Anglicare in the development; The Diocese; a commercial developer; investigate Aukus connection.

Short-term fund-raising mission ideas

1. Continue to rent a hall, and find new tenants. e.g dance groups
2. Hold regular markets ourselves
3. Continue using the church and hall for concerts, historical events, etc
4. Broaden our presence in the community
5. Other social occasions for the community

It's an iconic site, we can get better value from it.

We need to keep the balance between Mission and Money

Closing down is not an option



“Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness”

Since September we've been blessed each fortnight with the gift of a dozen lilies in the church, donated by a parishioner to bring warmth and beauty to the front of the chancel. It's no coincidence that one vase is located next to the lectern, where the Word of God is proclaimed, and the other close to the pulpit, where Word is explained.

This gift extends until Christmas - would you like to continue this gift through the season of Epiphany until Lent, when the church will be devoid of decoration? Small or large, mixed or the same, the flowers can be of your choosing for the glory of God. Please let Dorothy or Karen know if you can help out. Thank you. **Fr Stephen**



FOR SALE TO BEST OFFER near \$50

2-STROKE LAWN MOWER

In working order, includes fuel cans and funnel.
Available for viewing at St Bede's shed. See
Greg at Bede's Breakfast or contact via Bede's
Bazaar.

Thank You!

To everyone at St Bede's who has donated to our storehouse of food items this year. Quite often your donation goes to a family or individual in distress or it may be eaten at Breakfast@StBede's on Tuesdays. We are also supported by a number of very generous Semaphore Rd retailers.

THE THIRD ORDER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST FRANCIS (TSSF)

When I mention that I am a Franciscan Tertiary and have made lifelong vows as a professed member of the TSSF I am often met with comments.

‘I thought Franciscans were only monks and nuns.’ ‘I thought Franciscans were Roman Catholic.’

The Secular Franciscan Order is the Roman Catholic equivalent of the TSSF.

The TSSF is an Anglican / Episcopal Order whose Rule dates to the time of St Francis. Michael Angelo, Dante, Raphael, Christopher Columbus, Franz Liszt and St Elizabeth of Hungary were all Franciscan Tertiaries.

Francis of Assisi (1181- October 1226) was the son of di Pietro di Bernardone, a wealthy cloth merchant and Lady Pica di Bourlemont, a French noble woman. He was an indulged child and became quite a playboy in and around Assisi, popular with his wealthy peers, and living a life of opulence and generally enjoying worldly pleasures.

In 1202, seeking adventure and knighthood, Francis joined other men from Assisi to fight against the neighbouring town of Perugia. There was a bloody battle and many of the youth of Assisi were slaughtered. Francis was taken prisoner and languished in a damp dungeon, without sanitation, for a year, and was released when his father paid a generous ransom. His physical health and mental health were poor, and it is highly likely that he had contracted tuberculosis and what we would now identify as having post-traumatic stress disorder.



The San Damiano Cross before which St Francis of Assisi was praying when he received his commission to rebuild the church. The original San Damiano Cross in the Basilica of Saint Clare (Basilica di Santa Chiara) in Assisi

Francis wandered around Assisi and the rural surrounds in a lost and depressed state. One day, while praying before the crucifix in the ruined chapel of San Damiano, he heard the voice of the Lord command him, 'Francis, rebuild my church, which you can see is falling down'. Initially Francis took the command literally and started repairing ruined churches, but gradually realised that he was charged with reforming the institutionalised church, which was in a parlous state.

Francis had his friend, Brother Bernard, open the Bible three times, to seek God's guidance in their call. The texts which appeared were Matthew 19:21, Luke 9:3 and Matthew 16:24. These texts inspired Francis to take up a life of radical poverty and simplicity, giving away all his worldly goods, giving to the poor, caring for lepers and preaching the Good News throughout Assisi and beyond.

Many men joined the throng of mendicant preachers, and Clare of Assisi, a noble woman, joined the movement. This led to the evolution of The First Order Franciscan Brothers and the Second Order Franciscans or Poor Clares, an enclosed Order of Sisters. Many men and women wanted to join the rapidly growing movement, however it was not practicable for married people, and others with family or employment responsibilities to live the life of extreme poverty and celibacy, and so Francis developed the Rule of the Third Order for people living in their homes. The Rule was approved by the Pope in 1221.

The aims of the TSSF are

To make our Lord known and loved everywhere

To spread the spirit of love and harmony

To live simply

Through prayer, study and work TSSF Tertiaries live according to their Rule of Life.

The Rule of Life includes the following aspects: Eucharist; Penitence; Personal prayer; Self-denial; Retreat; Study; Simplicity; Work ; Obedience

Each Novice and Tertiary has a Spiritual Director with whom they work to assist them in honouring their Rule of Life.

In 1219, St. Francis of Assisi met with Sultan Malik al-Kamil of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade, a risky action resulting in respectful dialogue

between Muslims and Christians.

I found the following prayer at a shrine in St George's Cathedral, Perth which reflects the Franciscan desire for peace.

Prayer for Peace in Israel and Palestine

God of Love, we lift up Palestine and Israel

Its people, its land, its creatures.

War is a monster that consumes everything in its path.

.Peace is a gift shared at meals of Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Let us burn incense, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies.

Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries.

We beg for love and compassion to prevail on all your holy mountains.

Amen

The Lord's command to Francis, 'Francis, rebuild my church, which you can see is falling down' is as relevant and urgent a call to Christians today as it was 800 years ago.

If you are seeking a spirituality of joy, and looking for a contemplative community committed to justice, peace and care for the ecology then the TSSF might interest you.

The TSSF will be having a Eucharist at St Bede's on Saturday December 7

Jeannie Minnis tssf

Regional Minister jminnis4@gmail.com Ph. 0427 478 069

For Women of the Early 20th Century

Does Christ come to your kitchen when you are busy there all day?

Can you feel him sitting with you in a homely sort of way?

You may be washing dishes or deep in batter or dough, your face all flushed and smeary, but he'll not mind you know.

For Jesus was a working man, and laboured with his hands, so take him to you kitchen, for he fully understands.

A Kit Kat for the best entry of an updated verse for today's woman!

WANTED

**Shepherds,
angels and
wise men**

**Dress up and join in a
nativity play for all ages. Costumes provided if needed.**

The Really Good News of Christmas



St Bede's Anglican Church,
200 Military Road, Semaphore
on Sunday 22 December at 4.00pm.

*Joyful carols, lots of fun and a little party
afterwards.*

Enquiries phone 0457 501 397



The rise in antisemitism we see on our streets, on social media, in some of our political and religious leadership, is a deeply troubling indicator that we as a whole culture are facing profound challenges to our core values. Challenges that will erode our freedom and make Australia unsafe for our Jewish community.

When a society turns against its Jewish minority, history teaches us that it is a society that is heading towards increasing authoritarianism.

In Australia we see this clearly. The hatred expressed towards Jewish people, even when it is thinly disguised as 'anti-zionism', is a symptom of the authoritarian challenge we are facing. A challenge that comes to us in this time from the diabolical marriage of the radical left with radical Islam (in some parts of Europe this challenge is also coming from the extreme right).

To confront and overcome this challenge, to keep Australia from sliding into authoritarianism, we must work together to renew our commitment to, and confidence in, our secular, western, liberal democracy with its judeao-christian values.



National Church Life Survey: **Is there a God or higher power?**

NCLS Research surveys Australians regularly on their spirituality, beliefs and practices, to track trends, via the Australian Community Survey (ACS).

Since the pandemic began, and now after it, what changes, if any, have Australians expressed about the existence of God or a higher power? What do Australians believe in now?

Results from the ACS in May 2024 show interestingly, that there has been little change in patterns of belief about God between 2019 and 2024.

A majority of Australians believe in a God, spirit, or life force

According to our 2024 Australian Community Survey,

- nearly six in 10 Australians say they believe in God or a higher power (58%).). Of those who affirm the existence of something higher, 26% say 'there is a personal God' while 32% say 'there is some sort of spirit or life force'.
- One in five say they don't know (21%) and
- one in five say they do not believe (21%)

We asked Australians to consider who Jesus was, and select a description closest to their beliefs, from a list of options.

Results from May 2024, show that

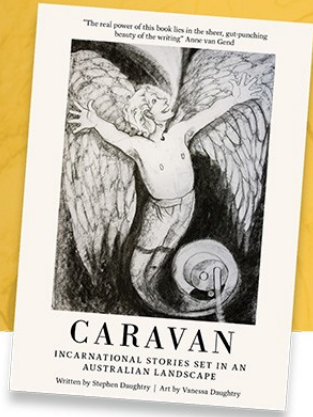
- a quarter of Australians (26%) select the following description of Jesus: **that he was God in human form who lived among people in the 1st Century**. There is little change since 2019 on these views.
- Existed but 'not God': Some 38% affirm his existence but say Jesus was not God, (22% of which see him as a prophet or spiritual leader and 16% see him as a normal human being).
- Did not exist: Another 18% of Australians say Jesus did not exist and the remaining 18% do not know..

How would you answer the questions?

CARAVAN

ABM's new story/study book for Advent, Lent or anytime. Join the CARAVAN of love and have your mind and heart expanded.

Sheer, gut-punching beauty...



ABM has just released 'Caravan', a book of incarnational stories based on the birth of Christ but set in an Australian landscape. It is written in a way that allows it to be used as an Advent to Epiphany (or anytime) study for groups or individuals. It will also make a wonderful Christmas gift to yourself or others. Get your copies now at ABM's online shop: www.intothedesert.org \$12 a copy and \$12 postage. Postage is set, no matter how many copies you order.

Stories. Stories build faith. Stories invite questions. Stories inspire the imagination. Stories invite us to see differently and understand more. This wonderful book is a collection of stories that are all part of the one great story. A "what if?" story that imagines Jesus born into Australia right about....now.

From the Annunciation to Epiphany (and a little beyond) **Caravan** throws new light on stories we think we know backwards, and asks the question, "Could it have happened here and now?" But the real power of this book lies elsewhere. It lies in the sheer, gut-punching beauty of the writing; the depth of character created in a few short paragraphs; the mystery that throbs through everyday people and places. It lies in stories that halt you while you process an insight on one page, and have you laughing aloud on the next.

- **The Venerable Dr Anne van Gend** Author of *Restoring the Story: The Good News of Atonement*.



Flight into Egypt (detail), Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1923, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Celebrating an eternal advent

In the first 1200 years of Christianity, the greatest feast was Easter with the high holy days of Holy Week leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. But in the 13th century, a new person entered the scene: Francis of Assisi felt we didn't need to wait for God to love us through the cross and resurrection. Francis intuited that the whole thing started with incarnate love, and he popularized what we now take for granted as Christmas, which for many became the greater Christian feast. The Franciscans popularized Christmas. Maybe their intuition was correct.

Francis realized that if God had become flesh—taken on materiality, physicality, humanity—then we didn't have to wait for Good Friday and Easter to “solve the problem” of human sin; the problem was solved from the beginning. It makes sense that Christmas became the great celebratory feast of Christians because it basically says that it's good to be human, it's good to be on this earth, it's good to be flesh, it's good to have emotions. We don't need to be ashamed of any of this. God loves matter and physicality.

With that insight, it's no wonder Francis went wild over Christmas! (I do, too: my little house is filled with candles at Christmastime.) Francis believed that every tree should be decorated with lights to show their true status as God's creations! And that's exactly what we still do 800 years later.

Remember, when we speak of Advent or preparing for Christmas, we're not just talking about waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened 2,000 years ago. In fact, we're welcoming the Universal Christ, the Cosmic Christ, the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history.

And believe me, we do have to make room, because right now there is no room in the inn for such a mystery. We see things pretty much in their materiality, but we don't see the light shining through. We don't see the incarnate spirit that is hidden inside of everything material.

The early Eastern Church, which too few people in the United States and Western Europe are familiar with, made it very clear that the incarnation was a universal principle. Incarnation meant not just that God became Jesus; God said yes to the material universe. God said yes to physicality. Eastern Christianity understands the mystery of incarnation in the universal sense. So it is always Advent. God is forever coming into the world (see John 1:9: "The true light which gives light to everyone was even then coming into the world.")

We're always waiting to see spirit revealing itself through matter. We're always waiting for matter to become a new form in which spirit is revealed. Whenever that happens, we're celebrating Christmas. The gifts of incarnation just keep coming. Perhaps this is enlightenment.

**Adapted from "An Advent Meditation with Richard Rohr"
(Center for Action and Contemplation: 2017)**

*Transforming God, whose light always penetrates the darkness and whose love always overcomes hate, we ask that you sustain us as we struggle to make your light visible in an angry and frightened world. Guide us every step of the way as we walk toward the light. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.***

PARISH DATES

November 26, December 3, December 10, December 17

'Re-imagining Christmas' dinner-discussion series, 6.00 pm, in the narthex at St Bede's.

December 15 Christmas parish morning tea, 11am

December 17 Breakfast@StBede's Christmas Party 11. 30 am

December 22 All age Nativity Play, 4pm, narthex 'party' to follow

December 24 A Festive Celebration of Readings and Carols with Holy Eucharist, at 8.00pm

December 25 Said Holy Eucharist, 10am

