

The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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February, 2025



The shepherds kneel in wonder before the Christ-child while the young Mary and Joseph watch their new-born son. The all-age participatory nativity play was filled with joy.

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

Parish Priest: *The Rev'd Stephen Moore, priest in charge.*

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

Musician: *Judith Pennington*

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

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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 Edited by: *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

We are pleased to report from Parish Council some of the statistics about **attendance at worship and events in recent months**. The Advent series average attendance was 14; there were 104 communicants over Christmas, and 48 attended the nativity play.; average weekly worship attendance is 59.

Dorothy Thorpe has been licensed by the Archbishop to administer communion from the reserved sacrament. Judith Pennington and Dorothy attend **Marten Village** and **Semaphore Residential Care** each month to conduct services.

On **Shrove Tuesday, 4 March**, the parish will be celebrating. Please come to a very short service at 5.30pm in the church, then adjourn to the supper room for savoury and sweet pancakes. Cost \$10.00. Registration will open in February. Plan to come to this happy occasion of fellowship.

The Ash Wednesday service will be at 10.00am on **5 March**.

#**The Annual General Meeting** will be held on **23 March at 11.00 am**. Please have reports to the office by 1 March so that they will be available to parishioners before the meeting.

Thanks to Kath Wilson, Joe Humby, Greg Manning and others who are trying to keep our lawns and shrubs alive in this hot weather.

Music: Dr Deborah Osman ceased as our organist in January. Thanks to Judith Pennington for bearing the extra load. Judith has just had a break on a 10 day Pacific cruise out of Brisbane.

vale Margaret Workman, who in her younger and healthier days was involved in the life of St Bede's. We send our sincere sympathy to her family and in particular to Gloria Datson.



SO MANY OF MY
Smiles
BEGIN WITH
•• YOU ••

MOLDIV
MAGAZINE



Julie Moore took these snaps at the Ladies Morning Tea to welcome her and Catherine Wingate to St Bede's at Heart of Semaphore on 9 January .

Vale Bishop Keith Rayner

It is with sadness and immense gratitude to God that I notify you of the death of Bishop Keith Rayner, who died peacefully on Sunday 12th January, 2025.

Born in November, 1929, Keith was ordained in the Diocese of Brisbane in 1953, and served curacies at Auchenflower and Dalby. Incumbencies followed at the Brisbane parishes of Sunnybank and Wynnum, during which time he also completed his doctoral thesis.

Keith was elected Bishop of Wangaratta in 1969, and was then Archbishop of Adelaide from 1975 until 1990. His time in Adelaide included overseeing significant liturgical changes across the Diocese, and social commentary on many controversial issues of the day, including the re-marriage of divorced persons, homosexuality, euthanasia, indigenous issues, and uranium mining. His opinion was always respected.

He was installed as Archbishop of Melbourne in November, 1990, where he ministered until his retirement in 1999, on his 70th birthday. Bishop Keith was Primate from 1991 until his retirement, having been the Acting Primate from 1989. He was a key figure, both as Primate and as Archbishop of Melbourne, in the eventual ordination of the first women to the priesthood in Australia, leading the important National Bishops' Meeting in 1991, and chairing General Synod and the Melbourne Synod of 1992 which passed the necessary Canon to allow dioceses to ordain women to the priesthood.

Keith chaired the newly-formed Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission, established by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1980. He was an important contributor in the planning of the 1988 Lambeth Conference. He was also, after his retirement, a member of the committee which in 2000-2001 conducted a review of the See of Canterbury. His counsel was sought and valued at the highest levels, by a succession of Archbishops of Canterbury and other leaders within the global church.

A person of deep prayer and faith, Bishop Keith was an important influence on many people, both Lay and Ordained, during his life. I give thanks to God for his life and faithful ministry.

+Geoff Smith



Brief notes from the parish meeting re possible site development.

The tenants from the community garden at St Bede's were invited to the parish meeting on 19 January, 2025.

People were invited to contribute to the two questions:

- 1. How can we enlarge the mission of the Church at St Bede's?**
- 2. How can we produce more income from the property we have?**

A. A spokesperson for the tenant gardeners made the following points:

- ◇ The garden is part of the outreach of the church.
- ◇ It contributes to urban biodiversity
- ◇ The garden is well-known among the gardeners' friends
- ◇ Is there some way a garden can be incorporated in any plan developed by the church?
- ◇ The garden could possibly offer programs to families and children, do training programs or grow flowers!



B. In relation to enlarging the mission of the Church and growing the Church, the following points were put forward:

- ◇ How can we reach out to children?
- ◇ We need to change too to meet current family needs e.g conflict with Sunday sport and arranging services to be complementary.

- ◇ We need to find out what other parishes are doing to increase congregations.
- ◇ We need to do greater advertising and word of mouth recommendation.
- ◇ C. Building:
- ◇ Wayne warned of the cost of the building, the time to build (at least 18 months), the struggle to get a structure built in present economic situation, the high cost of maintenance.
- ◇ Greg spoke about the examples of integration of old and new buildings.
- ◇ Ros spoke about making the most of the assets we have without spending more money. She endorsed the gardeners' ideas about involvement of children.
- ◇ Are there other developments in the diocese.?

D. The budget

- ◇ Colin spoke about our budget, the age of the congregation, the size of the congregation, the costs associated with the carpark and garden area, and the need for more money to guarantee the survival of the church.

These opinions and the opinions and ideas expressed in the November meeting will be taken into consideration as the Parish Council sub-committee considers the next step in the process.

**My neighbor just got arrested for ruining
our community garden.**

**They charged him with disturbing the
peas.**





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Kath and Anne had fun dressing up. Terry made a great Joseph.



Gabriel delivers her really good news- a dear baby boy is due.

In the hills he shepherds fell to the ground in fear and then worshipped the baby in Bethlehem

{Photos by Andrew DeGaris}



Never too old
to be an
angel. Angels
in their
realms of
glory



Who knew that
Gabriel had an
American accent?
Julie joins the
host of angels.

From the highest
to the lowest-
and heaven and
earth rejoiced!

P
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What Does Faith Mean?

Alpha Course @ St. Bede's and St. Paul's

St. Bede's is joining forces with St. Paul's, Port Adelaide, to run the Alpha course, a discussion-group series created to outline the core principles of the Christian faith.

Alpha comprises a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith, including topics such as: How Can I Be Filled with The Holy Spirit?

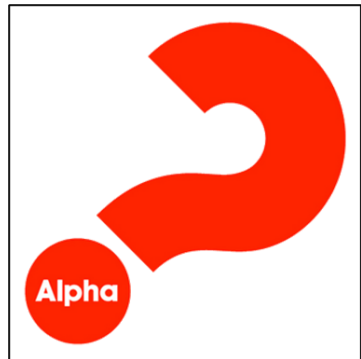
How does God Guide us? How do I Resist Evil? Why and How Should I Read the Bible? Why and How Do I Pray? How can I have Faith? Who is Jesus? Is There More to Life than This?

Last year, approximately 39,500 churches and organisations ran the course, with almost 1.9 million participants, according to Alpha.

Although originating from the evangelical Anglican tradition, Alpha is now used in various denominations around the world. Its supporters include many Catholic cardinals, Anglican archbishops and bishops (including Archbishop Smith) and leading figures of all denominations.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey described the courses as "superb." Rowan Williams was an enthusiastic supporter when he was Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales, and he continued his support as Archbishop of Canterbury, opening an Alpha conference and accepting an invitation to speak at an Alpha supper in London in 2004. He has described it as "a very special tool" and "a unique mixture of Christian content and Christian style".

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, a monk of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and Preacher to the Papal Household for Pope Benedict XVI wrote a document praising Alpha in June 2005.



For St. Bede's, the course provides an opportunity re-vitalize your faith by going back to the basics – for newcomers, it's the chance to learn the fundamentals of Christianity. For more details, see <https://alpha.org/>

The series begins at St. Paul's with a BYO meal at 6pm on February 17 and will then alternate with St. Bede's over a 10-week period. The online presentation (everything is done using the audio-visual link through the Alpha website) starts at 7pm and runs for about an hour.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Stephen (0490 205 662) **by February 14.**

Prayers for Australia Day

- Creator God, we ask for the grace to attend to your creativity at work in this land. Bring together our First Nations peoples and settler peoples to write a new chapter in Australian history based on reconciliation, healing and mutuality.
- We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.
- Bounteous God, We give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land, A land of despair and hope, A land of wealth and abundant harvests, A land of fire, drought and flood. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- God, bless Australia
Guard our people
Guide our leaders
And give us peace;
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Alternatives

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need today, feed us,

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us,

From Trial too great to endure, spare us;

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen

Developed in the early 1980s by an organization called the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA).

Spirit of Life and Love, Holy God, Source Eternal, in our midst yet still ever so elusive:

To breathe your sacred name is a blessing.

Your world become,

Your will be done here, on Earth, inspired by our aspirations to do and be better people.

May we have all that we need to survive, live, and thrive.

Remind us to be gentle; may we love mercy and kindness, recalling the times when we've fallen short ourselves.

Call us to be firm; may we not be tempted to follow selfish motivations or reside in our narrow privileges, unexamined and uninterrogated; move us to counter and overcome evil and injustice in ourselves,

our lives, and institutions.

Yours is the Beloved Community, the fire of commitment in our hearts, and the spirit of generosity and abundance, now and always.

Amen.

Most compassionate Life-giver,

may we honor and praise you:

may we work with you to establish

our new order of justice, peace and love.

Give us what we need for growth,

and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.

Strengthen us in the time of testing,

that we may resist all evil.

For all the tenderness,

strength and love are yours, now and forever.

Amen. (W Wallace)

O God, you love us like a good parent, and are present in every aspect of our existence. May your nature become known and respected by all. May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way. Give us all that we really need to live every day for you. And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures. Keep us from doing those things which are not of you, and cause us always to be centered on your love. For you are the true reality in this our now, and in all our future. In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen. (David Sorril) Contemplative Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is your name.

May your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Provide for us today what we need, and forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who wrong us.

Keep us from falling into temptation, and protect us from evil.

Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Hate Speech from a Christian Perspective

Hate speech, characterized by expressions of hostility, discrimination, or violence towards individuals or groups based on race, religion, gender, or other differences, is a growing concern in today's society.

It has become a problem in our schools, especially as children have access to mobile phones and their various platforms of communication. Hate speech has become a form of bullying often leading to social isolation, mental health problems and even suicide.

It has become a problem in politics with several recent cases where individual politicians and even their families, have been attacked on social media. Fortunately we have enough politicians with dignity who have loudly condemned such behaviour. As we approach elections this year, no doubt we will see more of this behaviour where bullies try to demean the politician rather than attack the policies or the philosophical stance with which they disagree. I don't suggest gagging free speech, but please, oppose policies not people. Admittedly, there are people in the public eye we do not like. We need to find ways to say why we do not like their actions or policies without belittling their humanity.

Nationally, a reaction to the Middle East situation has been to single out individuals and groups of people as the targets of hate speech. Although several politicians have deplored antisemitism or islamophobia as being "un-Australian", very little has been done officially to stamp out the problems. Unfortunately, waves of



immigrants have had to suffer slurs until gradually they have become accepted as part of the community. Terms like "poms", "wogs", "chinks", and "towelheads" should

never have been part of our vocabulary.

From a Christian perspective, the issue of hate speech is deeply rooted in the teachings of love, compassion, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their background.

Christian doctrine emphasizes the importance of loving one's neighbour, as reflected in the commandment given by Jesus Christ: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This teaching calls us to treat others with dignity and respect, which inherently rejects the use of hate speech. See also Luke 6.27-42 on loving enemies and judging others

The Bible also warns against the power of the tongue, which can either bring life or destruction. James 3:5-6 highlights how "the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts... It corrupts the whole body." Words have the potential to harm others deeply, especially when they are used to spread hatred.

Christians are called to speak words that build up, not tear down, and to be agents of peace and reconciliation.

The phrase "Judge not, lest ye also be judged" carries a powerful message about humility and compassion. It reminds us that judgment of others is not for us to make, as we all have our own flaws and shortcomings. It encourages us to practise empathy and understanding rather than condemnation, recognizing that the same standards we apply to others may be turned back on us. Ultimately, it teaches the value of treating others with kindness, knowing that we too are imperfect and in need of grace. Demeaning others actually demeans the one expressing it.

Furthermore, Christianity upholds the dignity of every person as created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This belief means that all people, regardless of their differences, deserve respect and kindness. Hate speech, which seeks to demean or dehumanize others, directly contradicts this core belief. DAT

Diary Dates

Bede's Bazaar: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11.00-3.00

Alpha Course begins 17 February at St Paul's at 6.00pm, then alternating with St Bede's. Bring your own meal. It finishes 14 April

Breakfast@StBede's 8.30-10.00 on Tuesdays in the hall.

5 February 12.00 Parish Council meet with Archdeacon followed by budget review.

10 February 5.00pm Alpha leaders meeting

17 February Alpha at St Paul's 6.00pm

24 February Alpha at St Bede's 6.00pm

1 March Deadline for submission of annual reports to parish office

4 March 5.30pm Short service at St Bede's followed by pancake tea. Registrations required.

5 March 10.00am Ash Wednesday service

23 March 11.00am Annual General Meeting of St Bede's

