



CHRIST
IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN
INDEED!

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Outreach: The parishes have donated a total of \$650.00 to the CWA towards supporting the victims of the recent disastrous floods in Queensland and New South Wales - \$450.00 from St Peter's and \$200.00 from St Andrew's.

At last year's Annual General Meetings each parish resolved to donate ten percent of its plate offerings to the International Anglican Fellowship. To save bank charges the money is paid over on a six-monthly basis. During January a total of \$1,370.00 was sent to the IAF (\$1,096.00 from St Peter's and \$274.00 from St Andrew's).

Mother's Day Raffle: St Peter's will be holding a Mothers' Day raffle this year to augment Church funds. All contributions towards the prizes will be gratefully received. The raffle will be drawn on Mothers' Day, 8 May. If you would like to invest in some tickets, or sell some tickets, speak to Fr Brian, our Ticketmaster, who will make you an offer you cannot refuse.

Birthdays: We congratulate the following who will be celebrating their birthdays during this quarter: William Veal (14 April); Michelle Scott and Andrew Veal (both on 22 April); Eileen LeFaever (1 May); Brian Daniels (8 May); and Deirdre O'Brien (16 May). May our Lord bless them and grant them many happy, healthy, returns.



Our Bishop may be a *Bishop Ordinary*, but I think you will agree with me that he certainly is no *ordinary* bishop! We thank him for his leadership and his many years of faithful service and wish him God's richest blessings as he celebrates his ninetieth birthday on 1 May - *ad multos annos!*

Wedding Anniversaries: Congratulations to Iain Scott and Tyvella Abban and also to Deirdre and Keith O'Brien who celebrate their wedding anniversaries on the same day: 27 April. May our Lord spare them for many more happy years together.

Vestments: at a recent meeting of St Peter's Parish Council I mentioned that the time was fast approaching when some of the vestments would need replacing as they have been in use for almost twenty years.

Vestments are very expensive - just to replace a surplice and a cassock costs in the region of \$800.00. The Council agreed to establish a



*Denise Turner and
Keith O'Brien*

Vestment Fund to provide for this and agreed that the funds raised by the Mother's Day Raffle will go to the Fund.

We are very fortunate to have Denise Turner in our parish. She has offered to make some vestments for us and has already made a cotta and a cassock and is hard at work sewing some chasubles. We are most grateful to her for this and thank her for all her hard work.

Easter will soon be upon us; Miems and I wish you a Blessed and Happy Easter.

Fr Brian.



Mothering Sunday 2022



MINI-FÊTE

At its last meeting the Parish Council of St Peter's agreed to hold a mini-fête on 12 November 2022 at the Scout Hall in Brentwood. There will be the following stalls:

Stall	Convenor	Wanted
Books	Ken	Books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles
Cakes, biscuits & sweets	Bronwyn & Mary	Cakes, biscuits, sweets
Jewellery	Beth & Deirdre	Any jewellery in good condition
White elephant	Susan	Good quality elephants of any colour, shape or size
Plants	Denise	Any plant that will survive until the buyer gets home
Produce	Miems	Homemade produce - jams, chutneys, preserves
Raffle	Fr Brian	Anything suitable for a Christmas raffle
Sausage sizzle	Sharon & Jerom	Sliced onions, sausages, buns, tomato sauce, mustard, cool drinks
Teas & coffees	Volunteer needed	Tea, coffee, sugar, milk
Card game	Brian	

Keith is our Communication and Media Officer.

All proceeds in aid of Church Funds.

MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL



A meeting of Diocesan Council was held by Zoom on 19 February 2022. The following are some of the matters that were dealt with:

1 FINANCES

The financial statement for the quarter ended 31 December 2021 was received. It was agreed that the Diocese would contribute \$300.00 per month towards the Bishop's episcopal expenses.

A donation of \$1,000.00 is to be made to the International Anglican Fellowship.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CLERGY AND CHURCH WORKERS

It was agreed that the existing Professional Standards Regulations should be updated, or perhaps even replaced. The Chancellor is to consider the matter and will prepare an up-to-date version, if necessary.

3 CHURCH UNITY

The Chairman tabled an *Agreement establishing full sacramental communion (communio in sacris) between The Anglican Province of America and The Traditional Anglican Church* and a *media release* regarding the same. He said that this was a major global breakthrough for the Continuing Churches as this was the first time that this (*communio in sacris*) had taken place on such a scale and he believed it to be the single most significant ecumenical step forward in the history of the Continuum.

4 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF BISHOP ORDINARY

This matter was discussed at length; however, no solution was immediately apparent and the various suggestions that were made will be followed up and further discussed at the next meeting.

5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 21 May 2022.

Our Diocesan Council Reporter.

Out of the mouths ...

*A father often read Bible stories to his young children.
One day he read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.
His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"*

WHO IS SHIRLEY?



Shirley McFarlane

Shirley was born at Pinjarra Hospital (we won't give her age away!) and was the youngest of four children who all lived in the quiet (it was then) coastal town of Mandurah.

Shirley grew up beside the beach, enjoying visits to the sea and lagoon, fishing, crabbing and prawning - and the spoils thereof.

She attended Mandurah Primary School, but not for long as, being a chronic asthmatic, she spent considerable time being hospitalized with the condition and missed considerable schooling.

When Shirley's father became ill it was deemed necessary for Shirley to be boarded at Claremont Hospital and from there she became resident at the Nathaniel Harper Homes in Guildford where "Tup" (as Shirley is affectionately known) resided for seven years, followed by 2-4 year residencies at Belmont, Croyden, Milford and Kentucky Hostels.

In 1988 a move was made to Almondbury Road which was conveniently across the road from Booragoon Shopping Centre which Tup loved to visit and knew most of the shopkeepers and store workers by their first names.

Almondbury Road (where by this time Shirley had lived for fifteen years) closed in 2003 and a new group home was built in Aldridge Road where Shirley has now resided for nineteen years.

During her working years Shirley worked at the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit in Graylands, Guildford Craft Centre, with a couple of stints at the Hawkvale Industries Addwest in High Wycombe.

About 1979 Shirley developed a strong relationship with Don Maguire working at Hawkvale. The couple spent as much time together as possible visiting relations, going to movies and out to lunch at weekends.

Shirley retired from work in 2009 after finishing her working days at Addwest Fremantle and Activ Beaconsfield and Palmyra.

Being very sociable, Shirley made friends easily and from the Nathaniel Harper days there was her bestie, "Picannini", then Billie and later at Aldridge, Barbara Moody.

Piano playing is one of Tup's favourite pastimes - Shirley taught herself to play, though she is a little lead-footed on the pedals.

These days Shirley enjoys her visits to Church on Sundays and the E Shed Markets on a Friday evening where music is once again the keynote.

Holidays have also been a part of Shirley's busy life, travelling as far north as Broome, visiting Monkey Mia, Bunbury, Busselton, Margaret River, Bridgetown, Dunsborough and Rottnest, to name a few. She has also travelled to Singapore with House staff where she unfortunately broke her ankle. Her recent trip was to Albany; her photo albums bear testimony to just how much the holiday meant to her.

So there you have it - "All about Shirley" - and we just hope that there will be many more paragraphs to be written about her in the future!

Contributed by
Ellen McFarlane
(Shirley's sister).

Shirley is one of our "regulars" from Aldridge House. They are a blessing to us and we enjoy having them worship with us. We also appreciate and thank their carers for bringing them to Church every Sunday.

Fr Brian.

When, what, where

When	What	Where	Time
APRIL			
3– Sun Lent V	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
10 – Sun Palm Sunday I	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
14 – Thurs Maundy Thurs	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
15 – Fri Good Friday	Good Friday Devotion	St Peter's	9.30am
17 – Sun Easter	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
24 – Sun Easter I	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
MAY			
1 – Sun St Mark	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
5 – Thurs	Holy Eucharist	Port Coogee	10.30am
7– Sat	PC Meeting: St Peter's	By Zoom	10.00am
8 – Sun Easter III	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
14 – Sat	Management Com Diocesan Council	Kalamunda By Zoom	10.00am 3.00pm
15 – Sun Easter IV	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist & PC	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm

and at what time?

When	What	Where	Time
MAY (cont)			
22 - Sun Easter V	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
26 - Thurs Ascension Day	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
29 - Sun Sun after Ascension	Mattins Evening Prayer	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
JUNE			
2 - Thurs	Holy Eucharist	Port Coogee	10.30am
5 - Sun Whitsunday	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
12 - Sun Trinity	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
19 - Sun Trinity I	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm
26 - Sun St John Baptist	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's St Andrew's	9.30am 4.00pm

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Thanks to Benoit Paquette 05-28-2002
I TELL YA ... THE ONLY THING I MISS
ABOUT OUR STAY IN EGYPT IS MY
CAIRO-PRACTOR

**CHURCH KALENDAR
AND READERS' ROSTER
APRIL – JUNE 2022**

APRIL		<u>READER</u>		
3	<u>Lent V</u>	(Violet)	St Peter	St Andrew
	First Lesson	Isa 43:16-21	Miems	Miems
	Psalm	126	Miems	Miems
	Second Lesson	Phil 3:8-14	Denise	Mary
	Gospel	Jn 8:1-11	***	***
10	<u>Palm Sunday</u>	(Red)		
	First Lesson	Isa 50:4-9a	Denise	Fr Brian
	Psalm	22:6-22	Denise	Fr Brian
	Second Lesson	Phil 22:6-22	Ken	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Lk 23:1-49	Keith	***
14	<u>Maundy Thurs</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Ex 12:1-14	Ken	Fr Brian
	Psalm	116:11-16	Ken	Fr Brian
	Second Lesson	1 Cor 11:23-26	Susan	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Jn 13:1-15	Keith	***
15	<u>Good Friday</u>	(Black)		
Devotional service at St Peter's at 9.30am				
17	<u>Easter</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 10:34-43	Susan	Miems
	Psalm	118:19-29	Susan	Miems
	Second Lesson	Col 3:1-4	Brian	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Jn 20:1-9	***	
24	<u>Easter I</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 5:12-16	Joshua	Ken
	Psalm	118:19-29	Joshua	Ken
	Second Lesson	Rev 1:9-19	Bronwyn	Mary
	Gospel	Jn 20:19-31	Ken	Ken

MAY

1	<u>St Mark</u>	(Red)		
	First Lesson	Isa 62:6-12	Bronwyn	Mary
	Psalm	89:1-9	Bronwyn	Mary
	Second Lesson	Eph 4:7-16	Miems	Miems
	Gospel	Mk 16:15-20	***	***
8	<u>Easter III</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 13:43-52	Miems	Miems
	Psalm	100	Miems	Miems
	Second Lesson	Rev 7:9-17	Keith	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Jn 10:22-30	***	***
15	<u>Easter IV</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 14:21b-27	Keith	Fr Brian
	Psalm	145:8-21	Keith	Fr Brian
	Second Lesson	Rev 21:1-6	Denise	Mary
	Gospel	Jn 13:31-35	***	***
22	<u>Easter V</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29	Denise	Mary
	Psalm	67	Denise	Mary
	Second Lesson	Rev 21:10-23	Ken	Miems
	Gospel	Jn 14:23-29	***	***
26	<u>Ascension Day</u>	(White)		
	First Lesson	Acts 1:1-11	Ken	Miems
	Psalm	47	Ken	Miems
	Second Lesson	Eph 1:15-23	Susan	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Lk 24:46-53	***	***
29	<u>Ascension I</u>	(Mattins)		
	Psalms	108, 110	-	-
	First Lesson	2 Ki 2:1-13	Susan	-
	Second Lesson	Jn 17:1-13	Joshua	-
		(Evening Prayer)		
	Psalms	146, 150	-	-
	First Lesson	Dan 7:9-14	-	Mary
	Second Lesson	Eph 1:15-23	-	Miems

JUNE

5	<u>Whitsunday</u>	(Red)		
	First Lesson	Acts 2:1-11	Keith	Miems
	Psalm	104:26-32	Keith	Miems
	Second Lesson	1 Cor 12:1-13	Bronwyn	Mary
	Gospel	Jn 14:8-17, 25-27	***	***
12	<u>Trinity</u>	(Green)		
	First Lesson	Prov 8:22-31	Bronwyn	Mary
	Psalm	8	Bronwyn	Mary
	Second Lesson	Rom 5:1-5	Brian	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Jn 16:12-15	***	***
19	<u>Trinity I</u>	(Green)		
	First Lesson	Isa 40:27-31	Miems	Miems
	Psalm	63:1-9	Miems	Miems
	Second Lesson	Gal 3:23-4:7	Denise	Fr Brian
	Gospel	Lk 9:18-24	***	***
26	<u>St John Baptist</u>	(Red)		
	First Lesson	Isa 49:1-6	Denise	Mary
	Psalm	139:1-11	Denise	Mary
	Second Lesson	Acts 13:22-26	Ken	Miems
	Gospel	Lk 1:57-66, 80	***	***

Unless otherwise indicated, all services at St Peter's start at 9.30am and those at St Andrew's at 4.00pm

Taking God's Word to the Top End



Susanna Baldwin

Did you know that there are over 150 Aboriginal languages still spoken in Australia, but only one of those languages (Kriol) has the full Bible translated? Within our very own shores are thousands of people who cannot read or hear the whole counsel of God in the language they understand best.

It's hard to overstate the damage that can be done - even in the most well-meaning Christian communities - when the Bible is absent, or incomplete, or incomprehensible. Believers may live only with a shallow and confused understanding of the faith they profess, being easily drawn aside to false teaching and the influence of pagan religions.

Church leaders, zealous as they may be, are ill-equipped to preach, disciple, and evangelise.

It is the vision of Wycliffe Bible Translators to help meet this need - in Australia and across the world - by training and sending out Christian workers to serve alongside indigenous churches and communities, supporting them to translate the Bible into the heart languages of their people.

As in so many other ministries, the task is immense and the workers few. Translation projects rely on an army of frontline and support personnel. Local language speakers do the hard work of drawing up the first drafts of Bible texts, translating from English or another lingua franca into their mother tongue. Trained linguistic and exegetical advisers, sent from mission organisations such as Wycliffe, work with these local translators to help them understand and express biblical terms and concepts within the parameters of the target language. Other members of the community spend time reading the draft translations, assessing them for clarity and usability, and suggesting alterations and improvements. After much to-ing and fro-ing, drafting and redrafting, the finished version will be sent to a consultant who is skilled in biblical Hebrew and Greek. He or she will do a final thorough check on the translation to ensure it faithfully captures the meaning and message of the original text.

But Bible translation does not begin or end there. Before this process can even get underway, work must be done to ascertain what languages and dialects are spoken in a particular region, whether and how there is crossover between them, and which language communities might be best resourced to begin a translation project. Sometimes a language exists only in oral form, and so in order to produce written Scripture materials, a team of linguists must do extensive research to document the sounds, grammar and discourse features of the language, and to devise an alphabet and writing system.

At the other end of the translation 'production line', once some biblical materials are available, Scripture Engagement workers come alongside the church leaders and support them to become good handlers and teachers of God's Word. They might train them to understand the key storylines and recurrent themes of the Bible, together with its different literary genres and styles, and then teach techniques for preparing a sermon or Bible study. Still others specialise in 'ethnoarts', and work with the community to facilitate expressions of faith through local art forms and music.

Given the vast personnel and resourcing needs for every single Bible translation project, it's a sad but unsurprising reality that large numbers of today's Aboriginal Australians will not live to see the whole Bible published in their mother tongue. And while it's true that many Aboriginal people are multilingual and have learned English to some level, even our simplest English Bibles tend to contain too much abstract vocabulary, unfamiliar metaphor, and complex grammar to be usable by this audience.



In an effort to address this problem, the Plain English Version (PEV) is a new 'in progress' translation of the Bible that conforms to the unique principles and patterns of English as spoken by Aboriginal Australians. Among other features, Plain English uses only simple grammatical constructions, a limited and idiosyncratic vocabulary, and ensures that abstract or metaphorical ideas are explained in concrete terms.

Here's just a flavour of what the PEV sounds like, and how it compares to one of our common modern English translations, the New International Version (NIV). The passage is Genesis 1:1–5.

NIV

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day.

PEV

¹First of all, a long time ago, God made everything. He made the sky, and he made the earth. He made all the things that are everywhere. ²The earth didn't have any shape. It didn't have anything. It was covered with deep water. Everything was dark. It was dark all over the water, but God's spirit moved around on the top of the water. ³God said, "I want light." Straight away, light was shining everywhere. ⁴God looked at it, and he saw that it was good. So God split up the light and the dark. ⁵He called the light *day time*, and he called the dark *night time*. After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 1.

It's the vision and prayer of the PEV team that this Bible will be accessible to speakers of many different Aboriginal language groups, and will in turn serve as a 'source text' for their own translation projects into the future.

Since the PEV project began around 12 years ago, a small team of translators have between them completed around 70 per cent of the New Testament and just some short excerpts of the Old Testament. These finished portions are due to be published as a single volume, or 'Mini-Bible' within the next few months. This is an exciting milestone, and we continue to pray and look to God for more translators to continue this important work.

My own involvement in the PEV was, in fact, a surprise twist. I had spent several years training and preparing to serve as a Bible translator, but my sights were set on doing that in Ethiopia. I was drawn to the richness and vibrancy of African culture, and convicted by the spiritual needs of a continent where Christianity is sometimes described as being 'a mile wide and an inch deep'. Yet in an all too familiar story, my plans fell victim to the COVID curveball. I landed in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on 11 March 2020, prepped and perky to

begin my new life. Ten days later, I was on a plane home again. The pandemic had suddenly escalated all around the globe, borders were shutting, airlines cancelling their flights, and there were serious concerns for mission workers getting stranded overseas without adequate support or healthcare options. The months ticked by, and with the both the health and political situations in Ethiopia still looking precarious, I began to speak with Wycliffe about a possible 'Plan B' assignment. The PEV project, based in Darwin, would allow me to bypass many of the usual steps into working as a Bible translator. No foreign visas, no international travel, and no language learning required! It felt like an easy decision. Since moving to Darwin, I have been helpfully challenged to reframe my preconceived ideas about what 'mission life' should look like. The needs are just as great on our own continent as they are in more far-flung and 'exotic' locations like Ethiopia. Please pray for the ministry of Bible translation among our Aboriginal brothers and sisters - especially that God would raise up more workers for this vast and needy harvest field, and that He would continue to bring His life-giving word to people of all nations, tribes and languages, in anticipation of the day when we will stand united before His throne in glory (Revelation 7:9).

For more information on the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators, or to sign up as a financial and/or prayer partner, please visit www.wycliffe.org.au.

Susanna Baldwin

Creation is Exhausting!

God is talking to one of his angels. He says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"
The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"
God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

DEMENTIA COURSE

As we are aware, dementia is a significant and growing health and aged care issue in our country. It has a substantial impact on the health and quality of life of people with the condition, as well as for their families and friends.

In 2019 dementia was the second leading cause of death in Australia and in 2019-20 more than half of people living in permanent residential aged care suffered from the disease; it is estimated that in 2021 over 400,000 people in our country were living with dementia.

Just what a terrible disease this is was brought home to me when my sister-in-law in South Africa was diagnosed with the disease during last year. Colleen is in her early seventies and is now in a care facility as she cannot live at home and cannot take care of herself. My brother is absolutely shattered. He says he worked hard all his life to provide for his family and for him and Colleen to be able to travel and enjoy their old age in comfort. Now she sometimes doesn't recognise him and can

no longer remember “the good old days” - then, of course, there’s the loneliness

Keith O’Brien recently mentioned to me that the University of Tasmania has an online course about dementia which he thought I might find interesting and informative.

I looked into it and found that the University is presenting *Understanding Dementia*, an online course offering university-quality education about the latest in dementia research and care.

It is a free course which provides an opportunity for anyone interested in any aspects of the disease to learn more about it without requiring examinations or assignments.

It is particularly helpful for people in the early stages of the disease, their families and caregivers, and individuals with a general interest in dementia.

The course addresses the foremost issues surrounding the disease, providing avenues for discussion as well as rich global networking opportunities to engage with what is a major international health issue.

It provides knowledge designed to maximise quality of life across the trajectory of dementia for people with the condition, their families and care givers.

Those participating in the course should expect to spend approximately three hours per week engaging with the content and completing related course activities. There are seven weeks of scheduled content.

The course comprises the following modules:

The Brain: this provides a background on basic nervous system anatomy and function, followed by a discussion of the diseases that cause dementia, current dementia research and future directions.

The Diseases: explores differences between normal ageing and dementia, risk factors, symptoms of the disease, issues surrounding diagnosis, as well as medical management.

The Person: addresses identifying and responding to symptoms, difficulties in recognising symptoms, living with dementia, progression and staging, palliation, behavioural and psychological symptoms, and non-pharmaceutical therapies.

After completing the final quizzes for the three modules of the course, participants will be eligible to download a certificate of completion.

For further details and to enrol in the course, see <https://mooc.utas.edu.au/landing/udwp>. The next course opens on 5 July.

I am grateful to Keith for drawing my attention to the course which I found very interesting and enlightening. I certainly know a lot more about the disease than when I started and, importantly, what effects it has on the behaviour of those who suffer from it. I can certainly recommend it.

Fr Brian

LENT 2022—*QUO VADIS?*

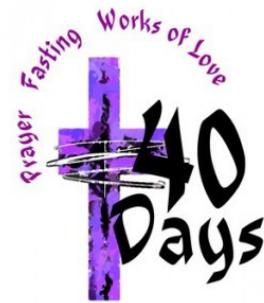
Quo Vadis is a Latin phrase which means, “whither goest thou?” or, “where are you going/marching?”

The phrase comes from a legend about the ending of the life of St Peter and a vision he was purported to have seen. Fleeing along the Appian Way, from persecution and certain death in Rome, St Peter met the risen Christ, heading in the opposite direction and bearing His Cross. Astonished, Peter asked the Lord. “Domine, Quo Vadis?” or, Lord, where are you going? Jesus replied (in Peter’s vision) that He was heading for Rome to be crucified a second time. Peter realized that his flight from Rome was cowardly, and he returned to Rome to face whatever persecution awaited him an interesting legend.

I also face a meeting with Jesus and perhaps this time, the words on His lips will be “Michael, quo vadis?”, and I will have to answer and tell my Saviour that I am trying to follow in His steps, and trying to live a holier life, and trying to be a better Christian always trying, and never quite getting it right? Embarrassing, Michael, as a very imperfect me faces a perfect Saviour this brings me to Lent 2022.

LENT 2022

The pull of the world is very strong, and we are so easily distracted, so easily tempted. Too many Christians are forever *trying*, but never gaining mastery over the ‘world, the flesh and the devil’ – over ourselves. Lent 2022 is to be a turning point in our journey of faith – no more excuses, no more feeble justifications for our shortcomings. It is time, like Peter, to turn around from our own path, and courageously follow the path that God has called us to walk in to whatever end that may lead us.



The simple illustration gives us the keys to mastery of ourselves and to a blessed and holy Lent. **Prayer, Fasting, and Works of Love** are the paving stones of a successful Lenten journey, as individuals and as parish groups.

We, as the Christians of the Traditional Anglican Church are to be known, not for our social activism (although that is a part of our humble Works of Love), nor for our political correctness or our liberal policies, but for a few simple things:

1. The TAC is to be known as a focussed and **Praying community** – for each other and for the country and the world.

2. The TAC is to be known as a **Disciplined and HOLY** community, one that eschews all that is evil and cleaves to all that is good.
3. The TAC is to be known as a **community that supports those who are in need** and does so, not to gain publicity, but rather in humble obedience to the commandment *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

If we are a community that does these things, and does not only think about them, we will also be fulfilling the Lenten vision of a **praying, fasting and merciful church.**

EPIPHANY – SEEKING A VISION FROM GOD?

All of us seek a deeper relationship with God, and all of us ache to hear God’s voice or have some special revelation or vision from God to help us govern our lives and be more fulfilled in our Christian discipleship.

How will this come to pass?

I am going to give you a Scripture to read, and I hope that you will understand its secret. It comes from the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (St Luke, Chapter 2):

²⁵And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ²⁶And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, ²⁸Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

²⁹Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ³¹Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; ³²A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

³⁶And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Notice a few key things from this holy Feast:

- In the life of Mary and Joseph – humble obedience and acceptance of God’s will brought them to the right place at exactly the right time they were amazed and grateful.



- Simeon hears the voice of God very clearly because he was “just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.” Work at being just and devout and seek God’s face, and the Lord’s vision will be clear to you and you will be satisfied.
- Anna had to exercise great patience before God spoke into her life. She was very old when she came into the Temple and finally saw Jesus. We are told that she “departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day” No short cuts for Anna – just a life of Godly discipline ... but what an ending, to see the Lord’s Christ!

FASTING, PRAYER AND THE GIVING OF ALMS

These are our Lenten duties. Without these basic activities, there can simply be no progress in the life of the earnest Christian disciple. The ‘spectacular’ gifts the signs and wonders that so many people urgently seek, are not possible unless the foundations of a disciplined Christian life have been laid. We are to keep our Faith deep and simple.

Even Jesus went into the wilderness before His dynamic and explosive ministry began. This Lent we should do our best to withdraw from the world and seek the Way of God for our lives. It will be an interesting experience for us that challenges our so-called independence and makes us more dependent on His Word and Sacrament.

All of this comes down to the taming of our appetites.

Fasting is too often thought of in terms of food? What about abstinence in other areas of life that are equally addictive? What about self-discipline and the simplifying of words and actions ... abstaining from hurtful words and deeds? What about our computers and our phones ... hours of wasted time looking, or ‘searching’ for things that are of no lasting value time that could be spent in the study of Holy Scripture and in Prayer to God our Maker; searching for God’s presence and guidance?

St Anthony of Egypt, the founder of Christian monasticism, urged Christians to withdraw from the world and engage in the fiercest battle of all – the battle for their own soul. He taught that in solitude, the fight of faith within would be won, and the devil defeated ... in simplicity, the voice of God would be heard, and His peace finally found I suggest that we follow his teaching.

I wish you a holy and blessed Lent. Keep it simple, and don’t be soft on sin in your life!

In Christ Jesus our Lord
 +Michael
 TAC Africa

The Parish Priest's Dilemma

If his homily is a few minutes longer than usual - he sends us to sleep.

If it is too short - he hasn't bothered.

If he raises his voice - he is shouting.

If he speaks normally - can't hear a thing.

If he is away - he is always gadding about.

If he stays at home - he never visits his parishioners.

If he mentions finance - he is always on about money.

If he doesn't - nobody knows what he is up to.

If he organises a fête - he wears everybody out.

If he doesn't - the parish is dead.

If he redecorates the church - he is spending too much money.

If he doesn't - he lets everything go.

If he is young - he lacks experience.

If he is old - he ought to retire.

And if he dies - Well, of course, no one could ever take his place.

