



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Pew Reflections REFLECTIONS ABM

3 August – 28 October 2024

Readings from
An Australian Lectionary 2024
(Year B)

Written by
Pamela Davey &
The Rev'd Sr Jan Crombie SSA

The Scripture is God's way of initiating a conversation; prayer is our response.

– Mark Batterson

It is a pleasure to present the August to October set of ABM's *Pew Reflections* for 2024.

We hope that these reflections will stimulate you to ponder more deeply as you read or hear what God is saying to the Church, and to you, through the Sunday and feast day readings. We hope that they will be a springboard for you to delve more deeply into the Holy Scriptures.

This is why we feast on the Word of God, to understand the love of God, shown in the flesh-and-blood person of God, that we might find our way back to God.

– Wendy Speake

In Christ,

Robert McLean
Key Relationships Coordinator
Partnerships Coordinator

Pamela Davey and the Rev'd Sr Jan Crombie SSA



Pamela and Jan are sisters and are grateful for being raised in a home of faith, with a mother who was a devout Anglican all her life. A fond memory is of her Prayerbook always by her bed.


Pamela trained in Hospitality Management and Business, and has worked in Sydney and Brisbane. She is a great believer that there is no excuse for boring food! After completing EfM (Education for Ministry) she changed her life pathway and became a Families and Children Minister, working two parishes in the Diocese of Brisbane. Her love of children and passion for Christian teaching saw her conclude 26 years of Religious Instruction in schools last year. She continues her passions with small nephews and niece, and is very involved with the social justice ministries of Maroochydore parish. Plus continually feeding all the family – she is the families' 'hospitality angel'.

Jan has been ordained 24 years, and has ministered in parishes and some central Diocesan work, the latter in both Brisbane and Melbourne. In December 2023 she became a Vowed Member of the Society of the Sacred Advent, an Anglican Religious Order. Her hope and dream, with others, is to create new life with the SSA foundational principles of offering spiritual space and renewal for both women and men. Jan has been a member of the ABM Board for nearly six years, is Deputy Chair, Chairs the Policies Committee and is a member of the Marketing and Fundraising Committee. She believes that ABM can bring mission renewal to the church in Australia. Life is full with grandchildren and dogs and life!

How to use ABM's *Pew Reflections*

ABM's *Pew Reflections* are designed for you to be able to easily cut and paste them into your pew bulletins and apply your own formatting. As every parish bulletin has its own house style it is important that you use a typeface that fits into yours but as a general guide they can be formatted like the two examples below. We try to ensure that they take up about half of an A5 sheet, though some writers are more concise than others.

Example 1



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Pew Reflections

Good Friday
– Friday 3 April 2015

- Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12; Psalm 22
1 Corinthians 1.18-31 or Hebrews 10.16-25
John 18.1 – 19. 42

Good Friday could be called 'Where is God day?' so often is that question posed by the various texts offered today. The answer, where it is given, is in suffering, disfigurement, on a cross, wherever we would not like to look.

- Pray for the lost and the dying. Pray too for ecumenical and interfaith relationships.
- Pray for ABM's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

Text: The Very Rev John Roundhill, Dean of Bendigo
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Example 2

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Pew Reflections – August to October 2024

St Stephen

– Saturday 3 August 2024 [unless observed on 26 December]

- 2 Chronicles 24.17-22; Psalm 31.1-8;
Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-60; Matthew 10.17-22

Rejection can be so painful – even to the point of death, as for Stephen and Jesus himself. Yet worldly rejection is of no count in God's Spirit of acceptance. As the psalmist says, this is our freedom.

- We pray that we will trust God in all that God leads us to, and into, to be equipped to be true to God's Word.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa.

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Ordinary Sunday 18 B

– Sunday 4 August 2024

- 2 Samuel 11.26 – 12.13a; Psalm 51.1-12;
Ephesians 4.1-16; John 6.24-35

How tempting it is to ask Jesus for a 'sign', like the disciples, when, as for them, Jesus is with us fully in our life. There is nothing more we need, but to trust him in love.

- May we trust Christ in love and so build his church, the faithful community of love.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the nation's Torres Strait Islander clergy, virtually all of whom work for the church without a stipend.

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The Transfiguration of our Lord

– Tuesday 6 August 2024

- Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97;
2 Peter 1.16-19 [20-21]; Mark 9.2-10

Visions of fiery flames, someone descending from the clouds, mountains melting like wax and Jesus himself transfigured in such a supernatural, divine light with God's voice affirming Christ's identity. What are we to make of such things? We are called to also be witnesses of Christ's majesty and glory and power. We are to honour him above all things.

- Loving God, let your light shine in our lives, let its brightness fill our hearts and transfigure us.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

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Ordinary Sunday 19 B

– Sunday 11 August 2024

- 2 Samuel 18.5-9, 14, 31-33; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4.[17-24] 25 – 5.2; John 6.35, 41-51

The human condition is so limited; hardness of heart, ignorance, prone to greed and falsehood and even, sometimes, murderous intent. Thank God that God does not despair! and indeed sent all that we need to live a renewed life, and eternal life, Jesus Christ himself, the bread of heaven.

- We give thanks that God has given us all that is good, and all that we need to be good, and we pray that we will share this generosity with all in need.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Primate of Australia, the Most Rev Geoff Smith

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St Mary, Mother of our Lord
– Thursday 15 August 2024

- Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3; Psalm 113 or the *Song of Mary*; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.1-7

Mary, mother of our Lord, is the supreme witness for us all to believe in God's promises. Only such faith could bear the extraordinary event of conception; the social stigma of baby conceived out of wedlock; the prophecy of a sword piercing her soul; of witnessing her son be both divine goodness and social madness; and the most painful blow of all, watching him die. Hail Mary, full of God's grace.

- We pray for the strength and courage of Mary in the trials and struggles of life, and the joy of her life given to God.
- Give thanks for the Church of Bangladesh, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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Ordinary Sunday 20 B
– Sunday 18 August 2024

- 1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5.11-21 [22-31]; John 6.51-58

Wisdom (and humility) cannot be earned or learned. To be deemed wise in God's eyes is the coming together of good choices in life – to live in the light of Christ, seeking always the understanding of God's will.

- Gracious God, may we give our love and life to you everyday, all our days.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*, the Anglican Church of Japan.

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St Bartholomew
– Saturday 24 August 2024

- Deuteronomy 18.15-18; Psalm 145.10-18; Revelation 21.9b-14; John 1.45-51

The twelve apostles of Christ would not have imagined how they would be remembered, even revered, in the years of history after their deaths. In their raw humanity they continue to inspire us that, in the knowing of Christ, great things can be done in his name.

- We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, remembering the Apostles of Christ.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea, the *Dachan Seong Gong Hoc*.

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Ordinary Sunday 21 B
– Sunday 25 August 2024

- 1 Kings 8.[1-6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6.10-20 ; John 6.56-69

People have often said to me, in the midst of sorrow and struggle – how do people get through this, without faith? As Peter says in today's Gospel "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life".

- We pray for faith to always turn to Jesus, everyday, in all things.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, remembering especially today the Bishop-Designate of Port Moresby, the Very Rev'd Wilfred Kekea, as well as the recently-appointed new Principal for the Bishop Newton School of Theology, the Rev'd Dr Ishaya Anthony, as well as the other staff and students.

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Ordinary Sunday 22 B
– Sunday 1 September 2024

- Song of Songs 2.8-13; Psalm 45.1-2, 6-9;
James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-23

How do we keep ourselves “unstained by the world”?
Through prayer and listening to Christ’s voice above all
others, especially the voices of the world that tempt us away
from the voice of our Lord.

- Make clean our hearts, O God, and renew a right
spirit within us that we may seek to serve you in joy
and gladness.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church
of the Province of South-East Asia.

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The Martyrs of New Guinea
– Monday 2 September 2024

- Zephaniah 3.14-20; Psalm 130;
Romans 8.33-39; John 12.20-32

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? There is
nothing known or unknown that can do this. His love is an
eternal continuum with no lines in the sand, and our life lived
is to reflect this belief.

- We give thanks for the Martyrs of New Guinea who
lived and died in the faith, and who now rest in
eternal love.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the
Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea,
remembering especially today the Bishop-Designate
of Port Moresby, the Very Rev’d Wilfred Kekea, as
well as the recently-appointed new Principal for the
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Ordinary Sunday 23 B
– Sunday 8 September 2024

- Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2.1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7.24-37

‘Mercy triumphs over judgement’ – we need to write this out and put on our bedhead so that we begin the day and end the day with this God-message in our hearts. How quick we are to move into comparison of people to the ideal we would like to be ourselves! Have mercy, and watch the world change.

- Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, your beloved.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

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Holy Cross Day
– Saturday 14 September 2024

- Numbers 21.4b-9; Psalm 78.1-2, 34-38 or Psalm 98.1-6
1 Corinthians 1.18-24 or Philippians 2.5-11;
John 3.13-17

We remember today that the cross is empty – the resurrection has happened, and we are the children of the resurrection. We need to be able to look in the mirror each day and say “For God so loved Jan (your name) that he gave his only Son”.

- Praise be to God who gave creation Godself through his Son, so that we can live life in its true fulness, forever.
- Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, remembering especially the work of the Zambia Anglican Council.

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Ordinary Sunday 24 B
– Sunday 15 September 2024

- Proverbs 1.20-33 or Wisdom 7.26 – 8.1; Psalm 19; James 2.18-26; Mark 8.27-38

The world, and indeed the church, have many interpretations to say who Jesus is. This can cause confusion as well as heresy. It is as simple as Peter’s proclamation “You are the Messiah!” and Mary’s post-resurrection witness “I have seen the Lord”.

- We pray that we will take up the cross of the risen Lord Christ each day, and that our daily life will be that faith in action in all we do.
- Give thanks for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, remembering their work and witness.

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St Matthew
– Saturday 21 September 2024

- Proverbs 3.1-6; Psalm 19.1-6; Ephesians 4.1-14; Matthew 9.9-13

A lovely image from Proverbs, to write our faith and loyalty on ‘the tablet of our heart’. And to trust God with all our heart, not our own insights. Learning to totally rely on God is our life journey, as it was the Apostle Matthew for whom we give thanks today.

- We give thanks for our fellow Christian travellers, praying that we will bear with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East and remember especially St Matthew’s, Zababdeh, in the occupied West Bank near Jenin.

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Ordinary Sunday 25 B
– Sunday 22 September 2024

- Proverbs 31.10-31; Psalm 1;
James 3.1-12; Mark 9.30-37

What are you afraid to ask God for? As Jesus explained to the disciples He already knows about your worries, be accepting of this, just as children are.

- In our prayer we reflect on the woman from Proverbs who has strength and dignity on her clothing, opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

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EITHER

St Michael and All Angels
– Sunday 29 September 2024

- Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 *or* Ezekiel 1.4-12; Psalm 138;
Revelation 12.7-12a; John 1.45-51

Christianity.com says that in an era of moral and ethical challenges, the Archangel Michael's example of unwavering devotion to God's will is a source of inspiration and strength.

- At a time when I called to you (my God), you gave me answer: and put new strength within my soul.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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OR

Ordinary Sunday 26 B
– Sunday 29 September 2024

- Esther 7.1-6, 9-10; 9.20-22; Psalm 124;
James 5.12-20; Mark 9.38-50

Jesus encourages us to be aware of our own failings and do something about them rather than look to others' misdeeds. We are also encouraged to pray for one another, as a source of healing – for ourself.

- We pray that we do have “salt in ourselves, and be at peace with one another.”
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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Ordinary Sunday 27 B
– Sunday 6 October 2024

- Job 1.1; 2.1-10; Psalm 26;
Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12; Mark 10.2-16

The Kingdom of God is available for all, offered in unconditional love. We are the ones that set limitations, not God.

- We pray that like Job and the Psalmist that we walk with integrity, on an even path, with the Lord.
- Give thanks for the work of Nungalinya College in Darwin which provides ecumenical theological and community education to First Nations people

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Ordinary Sunday 28 B
– Sunday 13 October 2024

- Job 23.1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22.1-15;
Hebrews 4.12-16; Mark 10.17-31

At times we feel forsaken, abandoned as did Job when he was very low. Jesus says nothing is impossible with God; if we believe this, we will never feel that abandonment.

- Our faith in Jesus allows us to pray with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

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St Luke
– Friday 18 October 2024

- Jeremiah 8.22 – 9.3; Psalm 145.10-18;
2 Timothy 4.9-17a; Luke 10.1-9

Both Luke and the Psalmist agree that the Lord is near to all who call upon him. St Luke is considered primarily the patron saint of physicians, surgeons & artists.

- According to the Church of England website the prayer based on Luke is: Father, I am asking you to guide me on the right path. I am seeking your wisdom and guidance. I am knocking on the door of your heart, asking for your love and acceptance.
- Give thanks for the Church of South India, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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Ordinary Sunday 29 B
– Sunday 20 October 2024

- Job 38.1-7 [34-41]; Psalm 104.1-10, 26;
Hebrews 5.1-10; Mark 10.[32-34] 35-45

Like Job it is difficult for us to understand the majesty of God, creator of all. Yet the psalmist gives us the words that must be always on our lips “Bless the Lord, O my soul: O Lord my God, how great you are!” (and don’t forget the exclamation mark).

- Lord God, help us to serve as Jesus showed us, towards our neighbour, and all creation.
- Give thanks for the work of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

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Ordinary Sunday 30 B
– Sunday 27 October 2024

- Job 42.1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34.1-8 [19-22];
Hebrews 7.21-28; Mark 10.46-52

“Take heart, he is calling you.” Thus the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends, and Jesus healed Bartimaeus. When we call upon God, then, as the psalmist says, we will be freed from all our fears.

- Let us also shout out to the Lord ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’
- Give thanks for the Church of Ceylon, which covers most of Sri Lanka, remembering their ministry in a multi-religious context.

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SS Simon and Jude
– Monday 28 October 2024

- Deuteronomy 32.1-4; Psalm 19.1-6;
Jude 1-3, 17-25; Luke 6.12-16

Legend has it that Simon (Jesus’ cousin) the Zealot & Jude (Thaddeus) share the same feast day as they were both martyred in Persia. Jude is the patron saint of hope and renewal.

- We pray for the Saints celebrated today, Simon & Jude, and all the other Saints in our lives, past and present. Like them, may we make a difference in people’s lives as we offer and show them the Word of God.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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