



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM

3 April – 29 June 2022

Readings from
An Australian Lectionary 2022
(Year C)

Written by
Robert McLean,
ABM staff member

It is with great pleasure that I present the second quarter's set of ABM's *Pew Reflections* for 2022.

It is ABM's hope that you will find that these reflections prompt and help your congregations to 'read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest' the Scriptures, and that in doing so, their faith will be deepened. We hope that you find them to be helpful.

When reading the Holy Scriptures, those who are humble and engaged in spiritual work will apply everything to themselves and not to someone else.
– St Mark the Ascetic (fifth century)

Wilnor Flores
Church to Church Program Officer

Robert McLean



This quarter's reflections have been written by Robert McLean, who has been with ABM since 2008.

Robert completed a postgraduate degree in theology from the University of Otago in New Zealand in 1996 and has been employed within the Anglican Church in various roles ever since.

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.



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION *Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

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.

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ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION *Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

Pew Reflections, Second Quarter 2022

3 April – 29 June

Lent 5C

– Sunday 3 April 2022

- Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126;
Philippians 3.3-14; John 12.1-8

In today's gospel reading we find Judas carping about the cost of the ointment that Mary spreads over the feet of Jesus in an act of love. St John tells us that this was because Judas used to embezzle the disciples' common funds. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I complain about others to cover my own iniquity?

- Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant, may I not fool myself or others into thinking I am good when I behave badly.
- Give thanks for the distinctive contribution that Torres Strait Islanders make to the Anglican Church of Australia
- Give thanks for Transparency International and other organisations that work to eliminate the injustice of corruption.

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Palm Sunday C

– Sunday 10 April 2022

- The Palm Gospel – Luke 19.28-40
- Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-18;
Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 22.14 – 23.56

In today's reading from St Luke we read how Jesus was received as he made his entry into Jerusalem. It was a parody of an *adventus*, the ceremonial arrival of a Roman governor into his province. This would have been with a warhorse decked out in its State finery and, one imagines, not-so-enthusiastic onlookers at the sides of the road, looking and the imperial might of the occupying force. Jesus upends this, arriving on a lowly donkey as the crowds shouted praises to God 'for all the deeds of power that they had seen' done by Jesus.

- Jesus Christ, coming to save us from our sins, may I always enthusiastically praise you for all the good things you have done, both for others and for me.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*, the Anglican Church of Japan.
- Remember the Church throughout the world in your prayers this week and beyond by downloading the worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx

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Holy Monday C

– Monday 11 April 2022

- Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 36.5-11;
Hebrews 9.11-15; John 12.1-11

In the reading from St John's gospel today, we read that Lazarus was causing problems for the authorities. Since Jesus had raised him from the dead, his very existence was deemed to be a threat. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where my faith is a positive challenge to others?

- Jesus Christ, chosen servant of God, may I live my life in such a way that others can see you working through me.
- Pray for political prisoners who are regarded as threats to the tyranny of those who lock them up.
- Give thanks for the Church of Bangladesh, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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Holy Tuesday C

– Tuesday 12 April 2022

- Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 71.1-14;
1 Corinthians 1.18-31; John 12.20-36

Today we read in St John's Gospel that Jesus says to us, 'While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light'. Darkness can be comforting as it envelopes itself around us. Jesus, however, invites us to look at ourselves in the bright glare of self-scrutiny. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I hide sinful thoughts and behaviour under a comforting cloak of darkness?

- Jesus Christ, deeply despised, you are my light. Help me to see my frailties for what they are, and not coddle them in comforting, delusional shadows. Help me to acknowledge them. I ask you to heal me and give me strength.
- Give thanks for ABM's networking partner, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), based in the United States of America.

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Holy Wednesday C

– Wednesday 13 April 2022

- Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 70;
Hebrews 12.1-3; John 13.21-32

Holy Wednesday was once called Spy Wednesday in the Irish Church because it was regarded as the day when Judas went to the authorities to betray Jesus. St John tells us that Jesus already knew who it was that would betray him. When asked who it would be by Peter, Jesus signals that he will give bread dipped in something like hummus to the man. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I, like Judas, willingly intend to betray Jesus?

- Jesus Christ our Teacher, keep me from the temptation to betray you for my own advantage. Help me to be a faithful Christian.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

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Maundy Thursday

– Thursday 14 April 2022

- Exodus 12.1-14; Psalm 116.1-2, 11-18;
1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35

There's a story that talks of a preacher who gave perhaps the world's shortest sermon: "Jesus told us to love one another," he said, "It's that simple." and then he sat down. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have failed to love others, despite Jesus' new command being clear and simple?

- Jesus Christ, Lord of love, help me to love others lavishly so that others will know that I am one of your disciples.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea, the *Daehan Seong Gong Hoc*.

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✚ Good Friday

– Friday 15 April 2022

- Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12; Psalm 22;
either 1 Corinthians 1.18-31 *or* Hebrews 10.16-25;
John 18.1 – 19.42

Today's passion reading takes us from the agony in the garden of Gethsemane to the garden where Jesus was led to rest in a brand-new tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea. In both situations, in agony and even in death, the gardens remind us that there is always the possibility of new life around us, no matter how horrific the circumstances around us might be. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have not noticed that there is the possibility of fresh growth and renewal around me?

- Jesus Christ, King reigning from the Tree, whenever I find myself anxious, dismayed or in complex and problematic circumstances, help me to see all the opportunities for new directions and creative possibilities that you provide around me
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, praying for all who worship there at this time.

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Holy Saturday

– Saturday 16 April 2022

- Job 14.1-14; Psalm 31.1-8;
1 Peter 4.1-11; Matthew 27.57-66

In his first epistle, St Peter tells the Church – that's us – to 'maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining ... serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received'. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have not lived up to St Peter's advice? Have I been unloving and hostile, complaining or refusing to use my God-given gifts for the benefit of others?

- Jesus Christ, Judge of the world, let whatever sins I may have committed be covered up by love. May I live my life in a way that makes me of use to you and to others.
- Give thanks for the witness of St George's College in East Jerusalem, giving thanks for the renovations they have been able to complete while the country's borders were closed, as they now prepare for the resumption of pilgrims and courses.

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Easter Day C

– Sunday 17 April 2022

- *Either* Acts 10.34-43 *or* Isaiah 65.17-25;
either Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24 *or* Hymn to the Risen Christ/the Easter Anthems (APBA p. 6);
either 1 Corinthians 15.19-26 *or* Acts 10.34-43;
either John 20.1-18 *or* Luke 24.1-12

Both St Luke and St John remind us that Jesus chose women to be the first witnesses of the Resurrection. And why not? They were central to his ministry. Yet, two millennia later women have to battle sexism both outside of and within parts of the Church, an inexplicable pay gap, large amounts of intimate partner violence and so on. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have treated people who are of a different gender from mine in a shoddy or even menacing way?

- Glorious Lord of Life, wherever I display bigotry towards others, help me to remember your Resurrection and to respond to it my opening my heart and mind to yours.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of all institutions dedicated to Christ's rising again, particularly the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Popondetta, PNG.

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Easter 2C

– Sunday 24 April 2022

- Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 118.14-29;
Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

St John relates to us the story of 'Doubting Thomas' where Thomas would not believe the story of the Resurrection told to him by the other disciples. We need not dwell on his doubt any longer: his cry of 'My Lord and my God!' tells us that he could see Jesus as he is. His scepticism led to profound understanding. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have stopped at scepticism and not managed to come to a deeper understanding?

- Lord of the faithful and of the douters, send your Spirit to deepen my understanding, so that like St Thomas I might find clarity of belief.
- Give thanks for the Church of South India, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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St Mark's Day

– Monday 25 April 2022 (may be transferred to 26 April)

- Isaiah 62.6-12; Psalm 89.1-9;
either Ephesians 4.7-16 *or* 1 Peter 5.5b-14;
either Mark 16.1-15 *or* Mark 16.16-20

St Mark tells us that 'The one who believes and is baptized will be saved'. Our baptism is what binds us into the death and Resurrection of Christ, but also into his body, the Church. May we ever be thankful for our own baptisms and encourage others, whether they come to the font as adults or as the family of an infant, to remember their baptism with joy. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have not lived up to my baptismal promises?

- Forgive me, Lord, for when- and wherever I have not lived up to my baptismal promises. Help me to do that, and to encourage others in their journeys towards baptism and as they take up their status as co-inheritors with us of Christ's kingdom in the days and years afterwards.
- Give thanks for the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*, the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, giving thanks for their work and witness.

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ANZAC Day

– Monday 25 April 2022

- *Either* Micah 4.1-4 *or* 2 Samuel 22.2-20;
either Psalm 46 *or* Psalm 51.14-19
either Hebrews 10.32 – 11.1 *or* Romans 5.1-8;
either John 15.9-17 *or* John 10.1-21

In today's optional reading from John 10, Jesus says to us that he is both the gate to the sheepfold and the good shepherd who is prepared to lay down his life for the sake of the sheep. We give thanks for those who are prepared to lay down their lives for the sake of others and for the sake of all that is good and right. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have acted out of aggression rather than pursuing peace?

- Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, forgive me for not always loving others as much as I love myself. Help me always to seek peace and recognise the futility of conflict.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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Easter 3C

– Sunday 1 May 2022

- Acts 9.1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30;
Revelation 5.6-14; John 21.1-19

John tells us today about the third of the appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection and how, like at the beginning of his ministry when he called the disciples (see Mark 1 and Luke 5) that the fishermen's nets were groaning with a good haul. Then, at the end of the story after the fish had been grilled, we see Jesus grilling Peter. He asks Peter three times whether he loves him. Getting more and more hurt Peter answers yes each time. Each time Jesus then responds with a command: look after the flock. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have claimed to love Jesus but acted as if it were otherwise? Have I failed to provide love and care for those who are around me?

- Jesus Christ, Risen Lord, help me to love you in my heart, and to demonstrate it by my care for others.
- Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, remembering especially the work of the Zambia Anglican Council.

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St Philip and St James' Day

– Tuesday 3 May 2022

- Isaiah 30.18-21; Psalm 19.1-6;
1 Corinthians 15.1-8; John 14.6-14

Jesus tells us through today's Gospel reading that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Though many other things may claim to be right for us, the direction in which we should walk is only towards him; the truth we should seek is only to be found in him; the life he offers is only given by him. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I have walked away from Jesus? Or times when I replaced his truth for my own beliefs or prejudices? Or times when I have been seduced by something falsely claiming to be life-giving?

- Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, may I always follow your way, in your truth, that I may attain life with you for ever.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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St John the Evangelist's Day (if not observed on 27 Dec)

– Friday 6 May 2022

- Proverbs 8.22-31; Psalm 97;
1 John 1.1-5; John 20.2-8

St John tells us in today's Gospel reading about the discovery of the empty tomb. For John, seeing is believing, and both he and Peter saw that the Lord had risen from death's grasp. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I had seen something and believed that God's mighty hand was at work?

- Jesus Christ, Death of death, help me to see where you have acted in my life. Roll away the stone from my eyes so that I can see where your grace has accompanied me, protected me and nourished me day by day.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa.

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Easter 4C

– Sunday 8 May 2022

- Acts 9.36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

Today is often known as Good Shepherd Sunday because of the Gospel reading. In some parts of the Church it is also known as Vocations Sunday, where people think about their own vocation, and how they might support others', particularly in terms of the Church's ordained ministry. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I had felt God's call and responded to it? Have I helped others to discern their vocation and respond?

- Help me to hear your call, Good Shepherd, that I might do what you would have me do. Help me to encourage others on their journey towards the Church, whether to become priests, or members of religious communities, or as faithful lay people. May your sheep hear and heed your voice, O Lord.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, remembering especially today the staff and students at Newton Theological College in Popondetta.

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Easter 5C

– Sunday 15 May 2022

- Acts 11.1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

Today's epistle reading tells of a vision had by Peter whereby he learnt of God's plan to integrate not only Jewish people but also Gentiles into the Church. Peter's response to this was to ask, 'who was I that I could hinder God?' If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I had hindered God, either out of ignorance or prejudice?

- Jesus Christ, hell's Destruction, may I not be an impediment to your mission, but rather may I conform my mind to yours.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

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Easter 6C

– Sunday 22 May 2022

- Acts 16.9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21.10-14; 22 – 22.5
either John 14.23-29 *or* John 5.1-9

In the John 14 reading, Jesus talks to disciples (and to us, the Church) about how the Holy Spirit will come in his name, teach us everything, and remind us of his words. He also tells them he leaves them with his peace and not to be afraid. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I had been afraid or where I had not listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit? If we were to examine our churches, would we find areas of our life where we had been timid or where we were deaf to the Spirits promptings?

- Jesus Christ, Quickener of the dead, may I listen for the voice of the Spirit, my advocate and guide. May the deep peace you offer fill my life.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of South East Asia.

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Ascension Day C

– Thursday 26 May 2022

- Acts 1.1-11; Psalm 110;
Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53

Today we read St Luke's all-too brief account of the Ascension of Jesus. What we do learn is that unlike the skittish band of disciples we saw on Easter Day, we now find the them to be confident, overbrimming with joy, and filled with praise for God. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas of my life where I had been able to go from feeling anxious to feeling ecstatic with joy because of something God had done for me?

Jesus Christ, enthroned in the highest heaven, help me to leave apprehension behind, so that I can praise you for the joy you bring to my life.

- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

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Easter 7C

– Sunday 29 May 2022

- Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22.12-22; John 17.20-26

In his apocalyptic vision, St John the Divine succinctly describes the Church's role: according to this 'testimony for the churches' it is to say, along with the Spirit, 'Come', that is, to invite people who are thirsty to 'take the water of life as a gift'. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had invited the thirsty to drink the water of life? Or have I heard the Spirit myself and responded, but nevertheless kept quiet about it? How do I expect the Church to grow if I do not invite people to respond to the Spirit?

- Jesus Christ, circled round by angel powers, let me hear the Spirit's voice and help me to offer water to the thirsty and invite them to drink, all for your Name's sake.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

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The Visitation

– Tuesday 31 May 2022

- 1 Samuel 2.1-10; Psalm 113;
Romans 12.9-16b; Luke 1.39-57

Anyone who regularly attends Evensong in a church or cathedral with a good choir will be used to listening to a variety of musical settings of the Magnificat. The styles of the compositions can vary from plainsong fauxbourdons and restrained Reformation settings to settings where we might imagine the BVM at a spinning wheel (Stanford in G) or dancing to Latin-American rhythms (Kelly in C) we are nonetheless presented with a vision of the mighty being tossed out of their thrones and the rich being sent away empty, the hungry being filled with good things, and all generations calling Mary blessed. Both Elizabeth's son John the Baptist, and the baby to be born at Bethlehem, are to be instrumental in bringing in God's upside-down kingdom. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had worked for that topsy-turvy reign of God?

- Jesus Christ, true God even in the womb, help me to play my part in bringing in your reign of love, hope and justice.
- 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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Pentecost / Whitsunday C

– Sunday 5 June 2022

- *Either* Acts 2.1-21 *or* Genesis 11.1-9; Psalm 104.26-36;
either Romans 8.14-17 *or* Acts 2.1-21; John 14.8-17 (25-27)

Today we read St Luke's account of the descent of the Holy Spirit on to the disciples in Jerusalem. Rushing wind was heard and tongues of fire were seen. Some heard their own languages from around the Mediterranean being spoken by Galileans. Meanwhile, as ever, some scoffed and mocked. Peter assures the crowd that this is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, after which time everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had mocked others for their faith in God? How might I look for the Spirit in my life?

- Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, help me to recognise when your Spirit is asking me to do something, and to do precisely that.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

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St Barnabas' Day

– Saturday 11 June 2022

- Job 29.11-16; Psalm 98;
Acts 11.22-30; 13.1-3; Matthew 10.7-13

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see Barnabas described as 'a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith'. He took Saul from Tarsus to Antioch, where they worked with the local Church for a year. It was in Antioch that people were first known as *Christians*. Moved by the Spirit, the church leadership laid hands on Barnabas and Saul and commissioned them for their missionary journeys. If others were to examine my life, would I be worthy of a description similar to that which St Luke gave to Barnabas?

- Jesus Christ, worthy of all praise, let me be filled with faith and work in whatever way I can for you.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, the Philippine Independent Church.

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Trinity Sunday C

– Sunday 12 June 2022

- Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;
Romans 5.1-5; John 16.12-15

Today's reading from Proverbs talks about Holy Wisdom. If you've ever been to Istanbul you'll have seen the former Church of the Holy Wisdom. For almost a thousand years after its construction, it was the largest cathedral in all the world. For Orthodox Christians, Holy Wisdom is Jesus Christ himself. During the Orthodox Church's Divine Liturgy a deacon will cry out 'Wisdom! Let us attend!' at points in the service to ensure that the congregation is listening to sacred teaching. And this is our sacred teaching: that our God is one God in three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. *O Trinity, O Unity! Be present as we worship thee, and with the songs that angels sing unite the hymns of praise we bring.* If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had focused on one member of the Holy Trinity more than another? Why or why not?

- Glorious, Holy and Indivisible Trinity, may all my days be spent in your praise, for you are my God: my Creator, my Redeemer, my Advocate.
- Give thanks for all who donate to, or otherwise support, ABM to help us spread the Gospel of love, hope and justice.

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Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion
– Thursday 16 June 2022

- Exodus 24.3-8; Psalm 116;
1 Corinthians 10.14-21; Mark 14.12-16 (17-21) 22-26

At the end of the passage we read from St Mark's gospel today, we are told about Christ's Institution of the Holy Eucharist. Day by day, week by week, year in, year out, the Church offers Christ's Body and Blood to us as food to nourish us on our Christian journey, food in which the Real Presence of Jesus Christ is to be found. 'Do this in memory of me.' In his famous passage on the Eucharist Dom Gregory Dix asks, 'Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacle of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth...' If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had taken the great gift of the Eucharist for granted, or ignored it?

- Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim, you offer your Body and Blood to me in the Eucharist. 'With me, in me, live and dwell,' I pray.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Australia, and the National Council of Churches in Australia. Gathered around the altar, may we all be one so the world may believe.

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Pentecost 2C [Ordinary Sunday 12]
– Sunday 19 June 2022

- 1 Kings 19.1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Psalms 42 and 43;
Galatians 3.10-14, 23-29; Luke 8.26-39

In today's reading from the Old Testament we learn of the meeting between God and Elijah the Prophet at Horeb. It's familiar to many of us because of its use as the basis for one of the verses of the hymn, *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. Elijah discovers that the Lord is not in the earthquake, nor wind, nor fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. In our sound-filled lives silence is something that people sometimes dread. Yet, it is in the silence that we can encounter the holy. We need not be afraid of silence but allow the 'still, small voice of calm' to speak to us and direct us. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had listened to profound silence, or is my life filled with background babble?

- Still small Voice, help me to slow myself and my racing thoughts so that I can listen to your words of calm.
- Give thanks for the Church of North India, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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The Birth of John the Baptist
– Friday 24 June 2022

- Isaiah 49.1-6; Psalm 139.1-11;
Acts 13.(16-21) 22-26; Luke 1.57-66, 80

Today we read St Luke's account of the birth of John the Baptist. His father, Zechariah, had to persuade others that he was ok with the boy being named John, even though it was not a family name. They didn't realise that the boy had been named by God and that Zechariah had been told by the angel Gabriel to call the boy John – which means God has been gracious. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had made others wonder what I was doing because I was following what God had asked of me?

- Jesus Christ, cousin of the Forerunner, help me to follow whatever it is you require of me, no matter how curious it may seem to the others around me.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council

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– Sunday 26 June 2022

- 2 Kings 2.1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77.1-2 11-20;
Galatians 5.1, 13-25; Luke 9.51-62

In his letter to the Galatians, St Paul lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He contrasts them with the 'works of the flesh' – which will lead us to lose our place as an inheritor of the kingdom of God. By working to bring the fruit of the Spirit to the forefront in our lives, we bring ourselves closer to being numbered among the citizens of God's kingdom. If I were to examine myself, would I find areas in my life that I could work on to bring out more of the fruit of the Spirit?

- Jesus Christ, Son of Man, help me to live a life marked by the fruit of your Spirit, so that I may ever come closer to you.
- Give thanks for the Church of Pakistan, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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St Peter and St Paul's Day
– Wednesday 29 June 2022

- *Either* Acts 12.1-11 *or* Ezekiel 34.11-16;
either Psalm 87 *or* Psalm 34.1-10;
2 Timothy 4.6-8 (9-16) 17-18; John 21.15-22

Today the Church commemorates two great missionaries, St Peter and St Paul. They (along with the other apostles) were blown by the 'Wind of Whitsun', as one hymnwriter puts it, to turn the then-known world upside-down. We are in great debt to them, because it was their positive response to the Holy Spirit's prompting that led them to preach that in Jesus God was revealed not only to the Jewish people but to the rest of us – Gentiles like you and me. If I were to examine myself, would I find times in my life where I had discerned a new point of view that had been prompted by the Holy Spirit?

- Jesus Christ, Lord of all, help me to recognise when your Spirit is prompting me to change my outlook, and to do that willingly, not clinging on to an old, untrue viewpoint.
- Give thanks for the Church of Bangladesh, remembering especially today their ministry in a predominantly non-Christian context.

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