

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
5 JULY 2020

“I WILL GIVE YOU REST”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: JOE CHINDAMO (PIANO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: CHRISTOPHER WATSON & KATHERINE NORMAN

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's is a unique church. We are proud of our independent spirit; seeking continually to discover new ways to understand faith and to demonstrate it in our lives, and in the heart of the city.

As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, St Michael's is committed to involvement in social and national affairs. We hold foundational Christian values of the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life and concern for the welfare of the whole human race irrespective of race, creed, gender, sexuality, status or age.

OFFICE BEARERS

Chair of Congregation: Ian Smith
Church Council Chair: Laura Beckett
Treasurer: Ian Cox
Secretary: Maree McDonald
Deanery I: Household
Dean: Peter Anderson
Deputy Dean: Jack Morgan
Deanery II: Church Services
Dean: Graeme Adamson
Deputy Dean: Albert Phillips

Deanery III: Contact and Care
Dean: Lyndell O'Brien
Deputy Dean: Joy Arnot
Deanery IV: Programs
Dean: Lorraine Woolley
Deputy Dean: Val Gill

Culture of Safety Contact Person
(Keeping Children Safe)
Val Gill
Organist & Manager of Music
Rhys Boak

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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 <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>

Podcast: www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch

Weekly eNews: reception@stmichaels.org.au

Please send notices to office@stmichaels.org.au by 11.30am Wednesday



MEDITATIONS

St Michael's is a vibrant, progressive, inclusive church with a long tradition of nurturing the spiritual well-being of the human person and working for the common good in society.

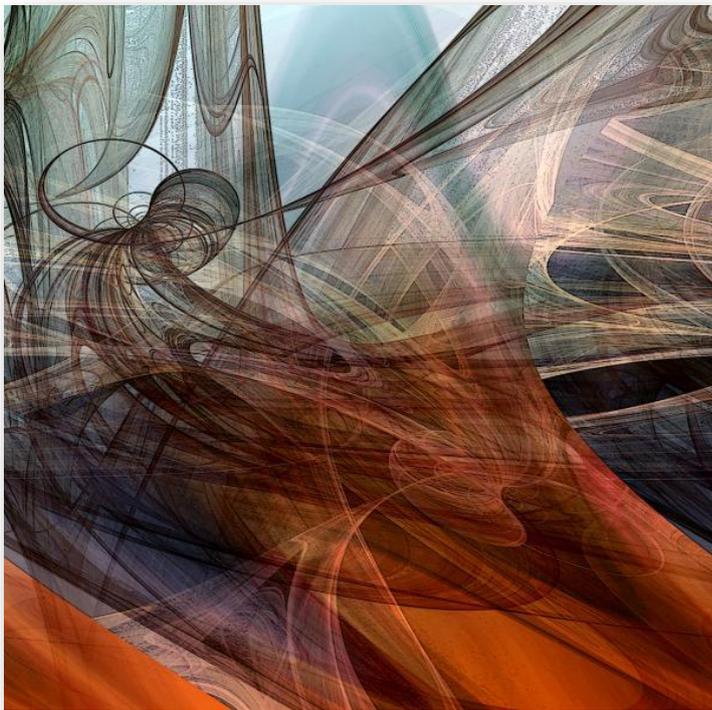
♥ **Our buildings may be closed, but our hearts are open.** ♥

During the COVID-19 virus pandemic, we are offering Sunday Gatherings online – Reflections by our minister Rev Dr Margaret Mayman; biblical and contemporary readings from congregation members; beautiful music by organist, Rhys Boak and guest musicians; and prayers for these challenging times.

A video of this service will be available on the website and YouTube on Sunday.

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>



Ruth Palmer
Complex Decisions

"We travel, some of us forever, to seek other states, other lives, other souls."

Anaïs Nin, The Diary of Anaïs Nin, Vol. 7: 1966-1974.

"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud."

Coco Chanel.

"We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories."

Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale.

"Wonderfully secured by a mighty power, we await with confidence whatever may come. God is with us--in the evening, in the morning, and entirely certain on each new day."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century

"Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now."

Maya Angelou

GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

Welcome to St Michaels Uniting Church online gathering,
I'm Margaret Mayman, minister at St Michael's.
Wherever you have come from, wherever you are going to;
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe;
you are welcome.

As we gather, we acknowledge Indigenous custodians of this land;
land that was taken from them without their consent, treaty or compensation.
The Spirit of God has long dwelled
with the First Peoples of this ancient land.

***We honour the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation,
and other first peoples on whose lands we stand,
and pay our respects to their elders,
past and present, as we celebrate the sacredness of life.***

So as we gather today, I acknowledge the weariness, uncertainty and anxiety. We draw on
the resources of faith, not to fix everything, but to remind ourselves that hope is rekindled
when people act together, when people act compassionately and justly, and that in all of this,
we are not alone.

So let us gather together, wherever we are... and remember who we are and to whom we
belong.

GATHERING WORDS

In winter's shorter days
we seek the light of sacred welcome.
In the depth of wintry nights
we seek the warmth of divine acceptance.
As seeds that lie dormant, planted deep,
we come to celebrate the rhythms of life
held in Divine Presence.

GATHERING HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

You shall cross the barren desert
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You will see the face of God and live.
*Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

*Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

Blessed are you poor,
for the kingdom shall be yours.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked ones insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

*Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

Words and Music: Robert J Dufford, SJ (1943-)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In his book *The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God*, Mark Buchanan writes:
“Most of the things we need to be most fully alive never come in busyness. They grow in rest.” Let us rest in prayer

Together, let us now step away
from our preoccupations –
the tasks incomplete,
the digital distractions,
the relentless news cycle.
Welcome stillness,
the softening of our senses,
readiness to accept the gift of rest.

Lay down your loneliness and unmet needs,
relentless doubt,
seeds of fear propagated in the dark
of pre-dawn dreams.

Now lift up your hopes
however slim,
your wish to fully live,
your longings,
your unruly will.

In this grace-filled moment
let your inner self be still.
In the silence, just breathe.

A time of silence and reflection

Breath of Life,
we listen for you in the silence,
hear and feel you in our quiet breathing,
and this community of people,
physically distant and spiritually connected.

Slow us down, so our spirits may be renewed.
Startle us with truth we have been too busy to see.
May we then be ready to extend ourselves to those in need
and receive with trust the care that is offered to us.

May our minds be open to new truth
and our hearts be receptive to love,
as we give thanks for this precious life we are blessed to share.

JESUS' PRAYER

*God, you are life for us,
holy be your name.
Your new day come, your will be done,
On earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
and deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour
and the fulfilment are yours,
now and forever. Amen.*

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of Divine Presence be with you!
And also with you!

People are invited to send peaceful thoughts to members of our community.

LISTENING FOR WORDS OF SPIRIT

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

SALLY CLARKE

Jesus said, "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Promised One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Abba God, Sovereign of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Abba God, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by God; and no one knows the Promised One except God, and no one knows God except the Promised One and anyone to whom the Promised One chooses to reveal God.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the wisdom of Jesus,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Improvisation on a theme by Puccini – Joe Chindamo (b. 1961)

An improvisation is in itself something of a spiritual experience. The spontaneity of music seemingly leaping out of the conscious and subconscious mind of the player is wonderful to see. The theme of this improvisation comes from Puccini's 1900 opera, *Tosca*.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

SALLY CLARKE

"The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry in *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

For the wisdom and peace of poets,
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

"And I will give you rest"

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this day we pray for people who grieve and people who celebrate,
for people who find cause for gratitude in everyday life.

*We give thanks for the assembly of words that links us together,
for individual speech that becomes speech shared.*

For parents and teachers who gave us the chrysalis of language,
for the comrades of the heart who left us signposts.

***For the language of breath, and the breath that is prayer,
for those who wake to light, and know the depths of sacrament.***

Spirit of compassion, we pray for people left out in the cold:
people who are homeless or without adequate shelter;
We pray for people who have lost their jobs,
for people denied the warmth of community and friendship.

***We pray for places of desolation and bleakness in our world,
especially we pray for people living in places
where inadequate healthcare resources
or failures of political leadership
have left so many people ill and dying during the COVID-19 pandemic.***

Liberating God,
we pray for those imprisoned by illness or despair,
or locked up in fear and mistrust.

***We give thanks for the calling to carry compassion in our hearts.
When it feels too heavy and our concerns for others and for our world
threaten to weigh us down, come to us like the gentle breeze of spring.
Move us to generous giving and abundant living.***

We seek renewed hope and restored trust in the good,
the beautiful, the true;
trusting that Divine Presence shares the burden of love with us,
never leaving us to face the tasks of caring alone,
constantly upholding our efforts to reach out beyond ourselves
and join in the dance of life.

***May our prayers move us
to wise choices and courageous actions.
In your many names, we pray.
Amen.***

HYMN

KATHERINE NORMAN

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
 clear the chaos and the clutter,
 clear our eyes, that we can see
 all the things that really matter,
 be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
 making space within our thinking,
 lifting shades to show the sun,
 raising courage when we're shrinking,
 finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
 there's a place for deepest dreaming,
 there's a time for heart to care,
 in the Spirit's lively scheming
 there is always room to spare!

Shirley Murray (1932 – 2020)

Tune: Austria

Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

And now, as we prepare to go, let us dedicate the gifts of time, money and energy given over this past week to sustain the ministry and mission of St Michael's Church and the Mingary Counselling Service.

***May what we give of ourselves and our resources
reach into the lives of people in need.***

***May our gifts make troubles easier to bear
and be the assurance that in life's difficult times
others care.***

***We re-dedicate our lives, and recommit ourselves
to live as co-creators of justice and joy.***

Amen.

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

May the God who dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who rests and rouses us,
bless us and send us
to fill the world with justice and love.

BLESSING SONG

May the blessing of God go before you,
May her grace and peace abound,
May her spirit live within you,
May her love wrap you round,
May her blessing remain with you always,
May you walk on holy ground.

KATHERINE NORMAN

Miriam Therese Winter (1938 -)

Tune: Blessing Song

©Medical Mission Sisters. 1987

POSTLUDE

'Improvisation on 'A Londonderry Air' - Joe Chindamo (b.1961)

A spontaneous rhapsody on the much-loved folk melody, 'A Londonderry Air (Also known as 'O Danny Boy').

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

OFFERINGS – AN INVITATION

People have been asking how they can support the mission and ministry of St Michael's when they are not able to make their offerings at church on Sunday. There is a 'Supporting Us' button on the St Michael's website. We are very grateful for offerings that have been received from members and from the wider audience of people who are appreciating our online videos. If you would like to contribute, you can make an offering through the website by credit card or use online banking. A downloadable donation form is also available. Thank you.

The online banking details are:
St Michaels Uniting Church
BSB: 083004
A/C: 515113338

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jesus Prayer by David B Royer and Jonathan C Nelson. *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. Edited by Ruth C Duck.

"The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry in *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*.

"Be Not Afraid." Words and Music: Robert J Dufford, SJ (1943-)

"Come and find the quiet centre." Shirley Murray, in *Faith Forever Singing*. Austria.

"Blessing Song," *Woman Song*, Miriam Therese Winter. Medical Missionary Sisters. 1987.

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GUEST MUSICIAN

JOE CHINDAMO is musical polyglot in the tradition of Bernstein and Previn. He is routinely described as one of the best jazz pianists in the world, though his art transcends jazz, having composed concertos, chamber music and film music. He possesses an uncanny ability to personalise anything which enters his orbit, as is evident in his work with violinist and duo partner Zoe Black.

With twenty three CDs in his wake, many of them topping charts in Japan, countless world tours and a plethora of awards, he can comfortably take his place amongst the best jazz pianists in the world. Joe's abilities and musical activities transcend jazz, as is demonstrated by his work with violin virtuoso Zoë Black, with whom he has formed an innovative duo and recorded two CDs entitled REIMAGININGS. and DIDO'S LAMENT.

A man with an international reputation, Joe has performed concerts all over the world. Of particular note, the Umbria Jazz Festival, The Tokyo Dome and The Lincoln Centre in New York. He also toured with famed US drummer Billy Cobham for over years.

His formidable pianism has earned him admiration from amongst the classical elite. In 2008 Joe was invited to perform three concerts in Italy by the celebrated classical pianist Michele Campanella. (Joe was invited back to perform in Naples by Campanella in 2011). The celebrated piano maker Paolo Fazioli heard Joe at the Umbria Jazz Festival and invited him

to play at his auditorium in Venice as a result of an enthusiastic recommendation by the formidable Nikolai Demidenko. In Australia, Joe is routinely invited to perform at all the principal festivals and a host of other venues ranging from house concerts to jazz clubs to the Sydney Opera House (where, along with James Morrison, was a featured soloist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra)

Amongst a plethora of awards, Joe has twice won the MO award for Jazz Instrumental performer of the year, two BELL AWARDS for best album and the APRA award for best jazz composition of the year in 2009 for 'Something Will Come to Light."

More recently, Joe's unique gifts as a composer of chamber music have come to the fore. Joe has been commissioned to compose and arrange for chamber ensembles such as ACACIA Quartet, the Freshwater and Seraphim Trios, Sarah Curro, the Flinders Quartet, David Berlin and Wilma Smith. Two of his works for string orchestra were recently performed by Australian Chamber Orchestra 2.

His Toccata for violin was chosen as the requisite Australian work by Anne Marie Johnston, who performed it at the ABC Young performers' awards in 2013. An Australia Council Fellowship in 2003 facilitated his composing of a concerto for Accordion and Orchestra. His String quartet number 1 was premiered in June 2014. This was also funded by the Australia Council by way of a commission by Acacia quartet.

He has recorded 23 CDs under his own name and collaborated on other recordings with distinguished artists such as James Morrison, Ray Brown (of Oscar Peterson fame) and the Brecker Brothers. He has worked with artists such diverse artists as Olivia Newton John (on her album Warm and Tender) and Sofie von Otter in a special performance at the Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2011.

In 2006, recorded a live solo DVD in Tokyo entitled Joe Chindamo in Japan. This was released in early 2007. In 2007, Joe was personally invited by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to perform at the Lodge for in Canberra for the signing in of his ministers. Later that evening Joe was invited to join the immediate family for their first dinner at their new abode.

He has worked on more than 60 film soundtracks and his piano playing is featured on such iconic Australian films as PHARLAP, MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER II and THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING.

NOTICES

CONTACT AND CARE TEAM

During this time we are unable to meet together in person, we have put in place a program to assist everyone to continue to feel connected and supported.

We have a team of members of Contact and Care and Church Council who are each keeping in touch with a group of people by telephone, to keep the important lines of communication open. If you would like to have someone get in touch with you for a chat during these times, please contact the St Michael's office and leave your phone number or email address.

The members of the Contact and Care Team are also available to talk with, or assist people, who are experiencing difficult times for any reason. If you would like to speak with a member of Contact and Care, please contact the St Michael's office.

All matters remain confidential.

Lyndell O'Brien: Dean of Contact and Care

Joy Arnot: Deputy Dean

PRAYER TREE

Living in the time of a global pandemic can feel as if our known world has turned upside down and inside out. The St Michael's Prayer Tree (a small group within Contact and Care) is available to support you, during this different and difficult time. We are striving to ensure that everyone is cared for. We extend an offer to pray for you or someone you know. All prayer requests are treated with sensitivity and respect. We do ask that you seek permission from the person concerned, if the request for prayer is not for yourself.

If you wish for us to pray for you, or someone dear to you, please contact the St Michael's office (9654 5120) and ask for a message to be forwarded, or speak with Catherine Jones directly.

There is no breath of prayer or intention of thought for another in Love that is not answered No cry for help goes unheard and at the end of the darkest night a new day is always born. (Sylvia Briault in Precious Words)

Catherine Jones, Prayer Tree Leader

PASTORAL CARE

Our minister, Rev Dr Margaret is available for pastoral care meetings by phone. Please phone the office to arrange a time for Margaret to call.

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

 <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>

Podcast www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S – ONLINE

In light of the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Victoria, St Michael's Sunday Gatherings will be offered online for the foreseeable future. Links to videos, orders of service and the latest eNews are on the front page of our website.

ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CHAT



Thursdays at 11am- noon (join anytime)

Meeting ID: 834 6407 7308. Password: 000405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83464077308?pwd=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnb1pudz09>

One tap mobile: +61731853730,,83464077308#,,1#,000405# Australia

Telephone audio only: +61 3 7018 2005 Australia (use meeting ID and password)

THE MINGARY COUNSELLING SERVICE is offering Telehealth services (with the counsellors working from home) for existing clients. If you require counselling, please contact the office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

SUNDAY 12 JULY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Seeding spiritual imagination”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Zoe Wallace (Cello) & Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)