

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

ALL SAINTS YEAR A 2020

1 NOVEMBER 2020

“STEPPING THROUGH THE GATE”

MINISTER: REV ALEX SANGSTER

MUSIC: THE NUOVO QUARTET LED BY SUSANNAH NG
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: JESIKA CLARK & TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

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

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/>

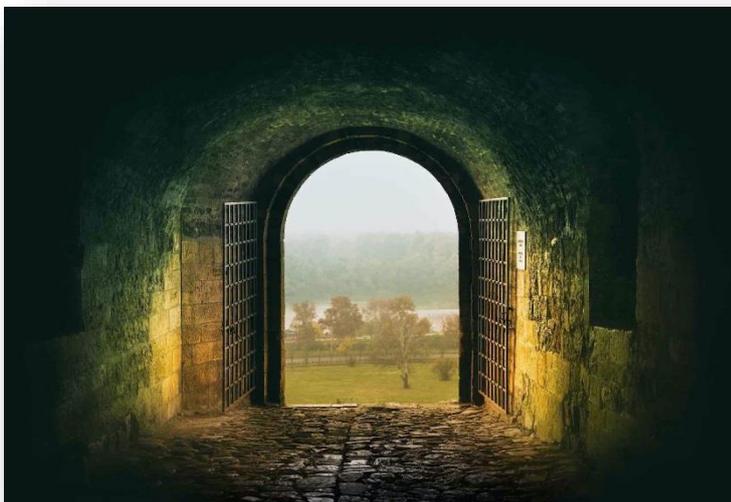
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

Stephen Jenkinson, Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul

"Grief is not a feeling it is a capacity. It is not something that disables you, we are not on the receiving end of grief we are on the practising end of grief."

"The Guest House," by Rumi, Translated by Coleman Barks

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.



"When Death Comes," by Mary Oliver

When it's over, I want to say all
my life
I was a bride married to
amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the
world into my arms.

GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

REV ALEX SANGSTER

I'm Rev Alexandra Sangster and I am the minister in placement at St Andrew's Uniting Church in Fairfield and today I have the honour and delight of sharing worship with the St Michael's community.

Wherever you have come from, wherever you are going to;
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe;
you are welcome.

We begin our worship, acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have dwelled in this land since time before dreaming.

At St Michael's we acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, on whose land this church was built. This is stolen land and we have no treaty with the people of this place.

***We acknowledge that land was taken from Indigenous people
without their consent, treaty or compensation.
We honour the elders of the Wurundjeri people,
past, present and emerging,
and join with them, in hope for justice and reconciliation.***

I invite you to acknowledge the First Peoples, on whose land you live.

A warm welcome to you – to you who are members and friends of St Michael's, to you who have become part of St Michael's through joining in online Sunday gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic, and especially warm welcome to anyone who is joining us for the first time.

If you are watching on Sunday morning, you are welcome to Sunday @ St Michael's Zoom Cuppa at 11:15am (by computer, tablet, or mobile or landline phone). Information about joining is in the eNews and on our website under the Online Gatherings tab. We are enjoying catching up with old friends and new.

I encourage you also to 'like' the video on YouTube and maybe leave a brief comment. It's a great way to help people who are looking for progressive Christian worship online during COVID to find us.

GATHERING WORDS

Mary Oliver once wrote:
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks,
and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

So let us pay attention, in this moment
to the movement of spirit,
and to the ancient story
that death shall have no dominion
and that the darkness
cannot be overcome by the light
and that on this day of saints
all hallowed
a new reality is not only possible, but is all ready here.

HYMN

JESIKA CLARK

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who in the world their faith in God confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were the stranger in the dark of night
with whom they strove to find their one True Light,
to whom you gave God's blessing ever bright:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

They are the folk who gave with Love Divine,
always in service did their wills incline,
forgetting self, they did with glory shine:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

They followed you, cast out the city's gate
killed by the eyes and guns of human hate,
yet trumpets sound their resurrection fête:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And there will dawn a yet more marvellous day,
the saints with laughter sing and dance and play,
the Clown of Glory tumbles in the way:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

With earth restored, with this our fragile star,
in gladness home from pilgrimage afar,
we find in God a joy that none can mar:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897),
adapted by J. Cotter
Tune: Sine Nomine
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Holy one, ground of our being,
every moment is shot through with you
and yet we fall asleep,
asleep on boats
and asleep in gardens
and asleep in the very midst of our lives
'Wake up' you say with every carol of magpie
and thrust of gum, against the sky.

'Wake up'
So we gather in this moment, of paying attention
and we acknowledge our
brokenness and our our sleepiness
and the ways that we wound our lives
and the lives of others
and the life of the world.

*A time of silent reflection as we reflect on our past choices
and the choices we hope to make.*

Hear the the Spirit's powerful call
You are renewed, sustained and now made whole
May we stay awake to this truth, so that we may be, the people we are called to be.

JESUS' PRAYER PARAPHRASE

*Ground of all being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.*

*Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and for ever. Amen.*

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

We are alive. We are loved.
We are freed to share life and love in the world
May the peace of Divine Presence be with you!
And also with you!

People are invited to send peaceful thoughts to family, friends, and wider community.

LISTENING FOR SPIRIT

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

REV CLARE BROCKETT

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the stories about Jesus and the stories of Jesus,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Pavane – Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Fittingly, this haunting Pavane was filmed in Mingary, which, as a unique space in all of Melbourne, is also the final resting place of many from the St. Michael's community.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

CONTEMPORARY READING

REV CLARE BROCKETT

"The Gate," by Marie Howe.

I had no idea that the gate I would step through
to finally enter this world
would be the space my brother's body made. He was
a little taller than me: a young man
but grown, himself by then,
done at twenty-eight, having folded every sheet,
rinsed every glass he would ever rinse under the cold
and running water.

This is what you have been waiting for, he used to say to me.

And I'd say, What?

And he'd say, This - holding up my cheese and mustard sandwich.

And I'd say, What?

And he'd say, This, sort of looking around.

For the Spirit awakening human imagination,
We give thanks.

“Stepping through the Gate”

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers of thanksgiving and solidarity, for compassion, justice and peace.

We are going to enter now into a space of silence
 Of deep breath and paying attention. In this space which lies before us,
 if you feel comfortable doing so, I invite you to have your feet resting firmly on the earth that
 lies beneath the floor, to straighten your back and move your shoulders so that the fall
 gently, your hands are open on your lap, you may like to close your eyes and you are still
 Bring your awareness to your breath, deepen and lengthen your exhalation and slowly
 become aware of the gentle expansion of your ribs,
 Be still
 Knock on the gate
 Spirit is present and will answer.

*In silence, let us pray for the earth and its people,
 for particular people, places and situations known to us,
 where comfort, justice and healing are needed.*

On this day in particular, we send our love forth to the great cloud of witnesses,
 to the saints, named and unnamed who have gone before us
 and we pray to for all those who are in deep mourning,
 may they feel the presence of God’s love,
 may they know, that they are not alone.

May we unite with one another as friends of God and creatures of earth.

In your many names, we pray,
Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

Our life is sustained by the generous giving of the people of this community.
 In gratitude we dedicate the gifts given
 to support our shared life at St Michael’s
 and the work of the Mingary Counselling Service,
 and rededicate our lives to the work of compassion and justice.

***Creative Spirit,
 as we bring our gifts of hand and heart,
 inspire us to bring to life our vision of a church
 where everyone has a place to stand
 a society where everyone is valued and understood
 where the gifts of the Spirit bud and flower
 and bear the Spirit’s fruit.
 Amen.***

HYMN

TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul; the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears.
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul; for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul; when change are tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Words: Kathrina von Schlegel
Translator: Jane Borthwick (1855)
Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sebelius (1865-1957)*

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

'Blessing of the Gate,' by Jan Richardson

Press your hand
to this blessing,
here along
the side
where you can feel
its seam.

Follow the seam
and you will find
the hinges
on which
this blessing turns.

Feel how
your fingers
catch on them—
top,
bottom,
the slightest pressure
sending the gate
gliding open
in a glad welcome.

Wait, did I say
press your hand
to this blessing?

What I meant was
press your hand
to your heart.

Rest it over that
place in your chest
that has grown
closed and tight,
where the rust,
with its talent
for making decay
look artful,
has bitten into
what you once
held dear.

Breathe deep.
Press on the knot
and feel how it
begins to give way,
turning upon
the hinge
of your heart.
Notice how it
opens wide
and wider still
as you exhale,
spilling you out
into a realm
where you never dreamed
to go
but cannot now imagine
living this life
without.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato from the String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64 No. 5 "The Lark" - F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Haydn's music is often imbued with a sense of optimism, positivity and often humour. His string quartet nicknamed 'The Lark' is amongst the most celebrated music for String Quartet. The idea of birdsong, of nature and of joy is appropriate for this season of spring.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

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

Lord's Prayer paraphrase by John Philip Newell, *Ground of All Being: The Prayer of Jesus in Color*, published by New Beginnings, an imprint of Material Media, 2008.

'The Gate,' by Marie Howe.

'Blessing of the Gate,' by Jan Richardson.

"For all the saints who from their labours rest," Words: William Walsham How, adapted by J. Cotter. Tune: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

"Be still my soul," Words: Kathrina von Schlegel. Translator: Jane Borthwick. Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sebelius.

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GUEST MUSICIANS

The Nuovo Quartet is a quartet made up of players from various professional ensembles and came together for the very first time to record music especially for our online services at St. Michael's. The members of the quartet are Susannah Ng (Leader), Zoe Black (Violin), Ceridwen Davies (Viola) and Josephine Vains (Cello).

NOTICES

CONTACT AND CARE TEAM

During this time when 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

We are a group within the Contact and Care team, here to support you, during this difficult and often concerning time. We extend a commitment to pray for yourself, or someone known to you, who is facing personal challenges. All requests are treated with confidentiality, sensitivity and respect. Kindly ask permission from the person/s concerned, if the prayer is not for yourself. To request prayer, please contact the St. Michael's office (9654 5120) and ask for a message to be forwarded, or speak with Catherine Jones directly. Meanwhile, please join us, as we pray for all the many concerns Covid has created.

Also, light a candle and place in a safe window location, at evening time, to unite in prayerful hope with other Christians.

Thank you.

Wisdom from Michael Leunig in 'A Common Prayer'.

'Dear God, these circumstances will change. This situation shall pass.'

'God give us strength. Strength to hold on and strength to let go.'

Amen'

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



Thursdays at 11am- noon (join anytime)

Meeting ID: 834 6407 7308. Passcode: 000405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83464077308?pwd=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnbIpdz09>

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

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

SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CUPPA



Sundays at 11:15am- 11:45am (join anytime)

Meeting ID: 922 9211 8658. Passcode: 494938

<https://zoom.us/j/92292118658?pwd=YkJLS25JYmVZekxKRG9nRXpTNUZFUT09>

One tap mobile: +61731853730,,92292118658#,,,,,0#,,494938# Australia

Telephone audio only: +61 3 7018 2005 Australia (use Meeting ID and Passcode).

MINGARY

The Mingary Counselling Service is now offering services via Zoom in addition to telephone services (with the counsellors working from home) for new and existing clients. The service is also providing Vocational Assessments. If you require counselling or a Vocational Assessment, please contact the office and we will arrange an appointment.

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Ready, set, go..!”

Rev Alex Sangster

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), Amir Farid (Piano)
& Rhys Boak (Organ)