

The Rector's Weekly Message.

Sunday, the twelfth of September

None of us will ever forget those horrific images of two aircraft deliberately flying into the Twin Towers, New York. America was under attack, and then our world changed. The War against terror had truly begun. The events further revealed with the Pentagon successfully attacked by what we learned to be another hi-jacked aircraft: Then it was revealed how the civilian passengers bravely foiled another aircraft that had also been hi-jacked – from its destination. Sadly all on board would pay the ultimate price.

Then followed the reports of a large number of first responders, firefighters, the medical team moving into the towers to begin to rescue the trapped people: Again, the images of both of the Twin Towers collapsing after the fuel had ignited producing such a fire that the 'superstructure' melted. All inside, including those who freely entered the damaged Towers to rescue others, perished. September the 11th, 2001, America was attacked on home soil for the second time in modern history. The first, of course, was the bombing of Pearl Harbour, which subsequently launched the Americans to join the Second World War.

As we remember the twentieth anniversary of these events of the 11th of September, we also recognise that among the members of St. Johns, there are those whose country was attacked. We support through prayer Hugh, Cynthia and Grace, Meg and David, who would be feeling the remembrance of this date.

God is sovereign, and at times such as the pandemic and the horrific events on September the Eleventh, we can ponder why? Why didn't God intervene? The Gospel of Matthew reveals Jesus teaching regarding the end times when he wrote:

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: Matthew 24:6-7 RSV

Sadly, the fallen aspect of human nature is not aligned to the things of God. The world is reaping what it has sown, and the consequence is that innocent ones get caught as victims and casualties. The Bible is clear that those who do evil and commit vile acts will do so until Jesus returns in all his glory to judge the living and the dead. You and I and the rest of the Church are called to live such lives that they are an alternative to the world. We display our hope and joy of being the children of God. God, in His wisdom, may bless what we are doing and call others to repent and turn to him. As Christians, we live as people whose hope is in Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

Singalong.

Dr Brett McKern provides a weekly opportunity for all of us to join him with other members of St John's to sing various hymns of his selection. This zoom meeting is open to all who can attend. Brett will continue this ministry until the 24th of September. The Singalongs are an opportunity to join in fellowship with others and Brett enjoying Brett's musical talents before he leaves St John's at the end of September.

Congratulations to Thomas Maschmeyer:

I am pleased to pass on the parishes congratulations to Thomas: The following is from a media release from The University of Sydney.

Professor Thomas Maschmeyer is turning foundational science into commercial solutions to meet the challenges of the renewable energy transition. And it means high-tech, green jobs in Western Sydney. The global renewable-energy storage company, Gelion, spun-out of the University of Sydney, has joined forces with Battery Energy Power Solutions to make and distribute the Gelion Endure zinc-bromide battery for the Australian market.



The batteries, invented by Professor Thomas Maschmeyer, will be produced at Battery Energy's Fairfield factory in Western Sydney. "There is a revolution coming in energy production and distribution worldwide," said Professor Maschmeyer, the incumbent holder of the Australian Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation.

"Across the globe governments and companies are setting ambitious net-zero-carbon emission targets. To achieve these goals, renewable energy will need to be stored everywhere – and that means batteries."

Professor Maschmeyer from Sydney Nano and the School of Chemistry reimagined zinc-bromide chemistry to produce a revolutionary new battery, replacing a flowing electrolyte with a stable gel.

The Public Health Lockdown.

There is no doubt that we are all keen to get back to having the choice of attending Church Services in person. I have made it clear that I would like to reinstate both the 8am and 9:45 Services when we can open.

One issue that concerns me is the issue that businesses can open their doors to the 'doubled vaccinated'. Pastorally and theologically, I do not want to be placed in the position nor have the Church in a situation where we say: All are welcome – but only unless you are doubled vaccinated. A society with an 'us' and 'them' mentality is moved from being a society to becoming tribes or clans. I hope you can hear and appreciate my dilemma.

Some people have made a choice that they have not received the 'jab' for whatever reason. Others like myself were in the first wave of people to be vaccinated. I respect everyone's right to follow what is best for them. The Region/Diocese is organising meetings for Clergy to discuss this issue. I pray that we will be given wisdom as we seek to move forward.

This matter does affect us at St. John's. There are members of the Church who have chosen, for personal reasons, not to be vaccinated. To quickly label them as 'anti-vaxers' would be to move into 'us and them' categories. Whatever their reasoning, medical or other, they remain our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our fellowship is based on Christ's death for all who calls each of us his children.

Hopefully, the Rector's Message scheduled for the 3rd of October will contain material, making our approach to reinstating Services more straightforward. Days before that message, there are planned clergy discussions with the Bishops and their teams. Thank you for your ongoing patience.

Another important message:

This week Her Excellency the Honourable Margret Beazely, AC QC, Governor of NSW, has sent an encouraging message to all Anglicans throughout NSW. The message is a recorded message, and I have asked Meg to send the link out early next week. The format is different from what I have seen before, so I cannot attach the 'login' details in today's message.

Anglicare:

Anglicare approached me about the possibility of a ministry opportunity regarding counselling. This possibility was if Anglicare were successful in obtaining a government grant. They were unsuccessful in their application. Hence we are not proceeding with the proposed ministry opportunities.

Theological Student for 2022:

I have lodged an advertisement with MOORE College regarding having a student for next year. The job description includes that the applicant be bilingual, Mandarin & English. This person would be seen to assist in the relaunching of the Play Group Ministry. This person would also be involved with Sunday duties.

Afghanistan:

There are disturbing News Reports flowing out of Afghanistan regarding the retribution being cruelly carried out on the families who are accused of assisting America and her allies. The brutality of sections of the Taliban is shocking. Will you continue to pray for their safety and their possibility of escaping Afghanistan as refugees?

May the Peace of the LORD be with you.

Fr Robert H.
Rector