



Happy Mother's Day!

For all the Mothers, I pray that you will be made to feel special by those whom you love. Mother's Day, albeit secular, reinforces part of the 5th Commandment; Honour your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12a) If you can visit your mum on this day, I encourage you to do so. If you cannot visit because of distance, I encourage you to communicate with her in a way that suits her. If your mother is now resting in peace, I encourage you to take time to reflect on how she enriched your life to the best of her ability. I personally give a prayer of thanks to the LORD for my mum. Both my parents are now resting in peace. The following is a prayer you may wish to use:

Merciful Father and Lord of life, I praise you that humanity is made in your image and is called to reflect your truth and light: we thank you for the life of your daughter, my mother, for the love and mercy she received from you and displayed in her life. Above all, I rejoice in your gracious promise to all your servants, both living and departed, that we shall be made one again at the coming of Christ. I also ask that in due time I may share with her that clearer vision of your heavenly glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (AAPB)

Today I am also very mindful of women who, for whatever reasons, did not have the responsibility and joy of having children. Today I also pray that your brothers and sisters in Christ will fully support you.

Archbishop Election

Synod has consisted of long hours, and as a Parish, you have been served well by your two representatives, Jen Lum and Nigel Hubbard. I am writing this update in the midweek, so

the Archbishop Election process has only had its first round of voting.

The process for choosing the Archbishop is as follows:

- i. The names of Nominees for the Position of Archbishop are declared.
- ii. Synod votes on which Nominees will go through to the next round. Synod is to consider which names will progress to the **Select list**. There are speakers, speaking for and against for all the Nominees. Synod then votes which Nominee will advance to the **Select list**. The vote is in both houses (Laity & Clergy). Synod retires for the evening.
- iii. The Synod then votes to determine if the Nominees are to go on the **final list**. Again, speeches for and against. Voting is in both houses. To progress to the **Final List** requires each Nominee to receive a majority in both Houses.
- iv. If there is more than one name, then Synod votes again. If there are no names due to the nominees failing to obtain the majority in both Houses, the process can be restarted. If there is only one name on the **Final list**, Synod is asked if they would like to ask this person to be the next Archbishop of Sydney. This final step is the ratification, and the Nominee becomes the Archbishop-elect until the inauguration.

The above is a simple explanation of the process. Of course, there is the expectation that the body of Synod is listening to discern the will of God. The speeches for and against the Nominees can be robust, yet they should no way impugn the character of the various Nominees. Listening to each speaker requires discernment to know if they have their personal biases. There is also people 'lobbying' for their man.

An essential aspect of this Synod is the President. The President calls the multiple speakers to express their respective views.

Thank you for praying for the election of the next Archbishop. I could rightly say that each of the four Nominees would make a fine Archbishop in their own right.

Before printing this update, the Election Synod has decided that the **Very Reverend Kanishka Raffel**, Dean of St. Andrew's Cathedral, is now the Anglican Diocese of Sydney Archbishop-elect. Synod will formally ratify this decision at tonight's (Thursday) sitting of Synod. Kanishka will be consecrated to the order of Bishop, then installed as the next Archbishop. This inauguration will be on Friday the 28th of April at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

Patronal Festival

Today is the date we can celebrate St John the Apostle and Evangelist. The majority of scholars and Church Tradition suggests that St John the Apostle and St John the Evangelist is the same person who is one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. John is the one whom Jesus loved (John 13:23). He was also the one whom Jesus entrusted his mother to when Jesus was crucified. (John 19:26).

Traditionally a Church was named after a Biblical figure. The Patronal Saint was chosen, generally by the Bishop, in consultation with the people planting the Church. The Patron Saint was to be an example to the people of that Parish.

St John, the Apostle and Evangelist, gives us the example of being the beloved Disciple. He was known for His love. He was also an Apostle, and he contributed by writing the Gospel of John and the Epistles that bear his name. John is also the writer/scribe of the book of Revelation. An Evangelist and an Apostle is known for his loving nature. This character and

work of John in whom our Church has been named is an example to us all.

Today we give thanks to all the men and women who have gone before us. Today we thank God how they have enriched our lives. Today we celebrate how John achieved the good Work the LORD had prepared for him to do. Today we continue to ask God for his help as we likewise seek to do the good work, He has prepared for each one of us to do.

To God be glory forever! Amen.

COVID-Safe protocols.

I was beginning to think we as a society were successfully moving away from the requirement of strict protocols. Wearing masks is now mandatory when attending Church Services. The reintroduction on the restriction of congregational singing has also come into force. For those who have medical reasons for not wearing a mask, please sit in the first pew in a social distancing manner. Morning tea after the second Service ***can proceed***. If you are feeling unwell or showing any signs of COVID, please get tested. As we observe all the COVID-Safe protocols, we will be playing our part to mitigate the spread of this virus. Those who are feeling vulnerable, please contact the Rector, thus allowing pastoral care to be directed.

Pray, and continue to pray. Let us continue to show our dependence upon God and pray for the success of the NSW Health Department's COVID-Safe protocols. Pray that their contact tracing will be fruitful. Finally, pray for the successful rollout of the vaccination programmes.

Fr Robert Happer
Rector