

SAINTS ALIVE!

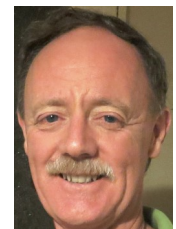
St Michael's Sunday Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Happy Mother's Day

We are delighted to wish Happy Mother's Day to all the mums, grandmas, aunts and women who are significant influences in the lives of others. May your lives be filled with God's abundant blessings always as you bring his love and grace to those around you. Have a Happy Mother's Day!



Rev. Wayne
Walters
0425 163 760

Wayne's Words

Happy Birthday, Council of Nicaea

This month is the 1700th birthday of the Council of Nicaea, from which comes the Nicene Creed that we affirm most Sundays (although the definitive wording was settled in 451 at the Council of Chalcedon). This was the first Ecumenical Council of the Christian Church, though sadly many Eastern churches were not represented. It was also a turning point in church-state relations as the Council was called by the Roman Emperor Constantine.

The emperor's concern was to overcome division within the church and empire, as the church was undergoing a dispute over how to understand the relationship of Jesus' humanity with his divinity. The followers of Arius (who had lost the election for Bishop of Alexandria) took literally the phrase, 'first-born over all creation', claiming that there was a time when Jesus 'was not'. This effectively made Jesus a part of God's creation, and therefore less than God. It was Athanasius who later clarified that 'only God can save', so for our salvation through Jesus to be effective, Jesus must be fully God as well as fully man. John's gospel (consistent with the rest of scripture) is definitive – 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' 1:1. John concludes with Thomas' exclamation – 'My Lord and my God!' 20:28.

Hence our creed affirms: 'We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.'

The views of Arius were anathematised – meaning that those who held and taught them were to be excommunicated. Arius was, however, a very eloquent preacher, popular and well connected, so it was many decades before this matter was finally put to rest. In fact, his views have re-emerged in the Jehovah's Witness sect.

Arius has however, done the Church a service in forcing it to clarify its belief in and understanding of the Trinity. While the word 'Trinity' does not appear in the Bible, what it conveys about God is held across the Christian Church today as the best description of what the Scriptures comprehensively teach: that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal; one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity. For this we give thanks to God. Happy Birthday Nicene Creed!

God bless you, *Wayne*

Prayer Points

- *For elections: for the conclave in Rome for a new pope, for the synod in Melbourne for a new archbishop, and for the Australian government and all local representatives elected on Saturday.*
- *For the Snibsons in Darwin and for their support in revitalizing two indigenous faith communities there.*
- *For everyone coming to and helping with Alpha.*
- *This week's parishioners: Margaret, Andrew, Pat and Laurel*



A New Archbishop

The synod of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne meets on Friday and Saturday, 23 and 24 of May, to elect a new archbishop. Bishop Genieve Blackwell has been serving in the interim in this role, and we are grateful for the calm wisdom she has brought. Please pray for our Synod representatives, Wayne, Jan and Andrew, as they attend this important gathering—that the Holy Spirit will give them discernment as they listen, read and vote.

For Myanmar

Sale of our democracy sausages on Saturday raised \$1000 to go to Anglican Overseas Aid in support of Myanmar's earthquake recovery. Many thanks to the voters and families of Beaumaris for their support of our fundraiser and to the St Michael's family members who made it possible.

Libby Away

Libby is away for three weeks and back on Tuesday 3 June. In that time there will be no newsletter, although Wayne will continue to send news with his Sunday email. We'll likely do things just a little differently on Sundays too—we may go back to using hymn books or the prayer book for parts of the service while Libby is on holidays. And please note that our website will not be updated in that time.

Guest Speaker

We will welcome Andrew Malone from CMS on Sunday 25 May. Andrew is a lecturer in the Old and New Testaments, Greek, and Mission at Ridley College and a member of Glen Waverley Anglican Church.

Alpha Update

The Alpha Film Series is humming! Now into Week 3, our partnership with St Augustine's Mentone is proving to be a joy and great mutual benefit. Some 25 people are participating as guests on Alpha with 15 others involved facilitating groups and helping in practical ways.

An Alpha 'Day Away' will be held on Saturday 14 June at Dingley Salvos for the teaching on the Holy Spirit. Please pray for this event and for the groups meeting each Tuesday night, Wednesday evening online and Thursday afternoons. 'Expectant prayer changes things.'

Trivia Night

Brush up on your trivia in preparation for St Augustine's Trivia Night! We are warmly invited—there are individual tickets (\$15) and tables of eight (\$120). Please sign up in the foyer.

Date: Saturday 14 June at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Funds raised will support the ministries of St Augustine's.

Prayer at the Time of Choosing an Archbishop

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,

in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and in loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of truth.

So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we meet and acknowledge their continuing connection to their land, waterways and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Make a Donation to St Michael's

Here are our banking details:

BSB 633-000

Acct. 139-566-459

Please add your name to the deposit description.

Thank you for supporting our ministries!

This Week's Readings

May 11

Acts 9.36-43

Psalms 23

Rev 7.9-17

John 10.22-30

May 18

Acts 11.1-18

Psalms 148

Rev 21.1-6

John 13.31-35