



Reflections

December 2019

Sunday Worship Services: 10am Traditional

6.30pm Contemporary

Seek Growth Find Life Know Love



What's On In the Month of December

Outside the Box Group Tuesday 7.30pm	3rd
Mid Week Adventure Wednesday	11th
Young Adults Gathering	18th
MCCS Lunch at Petersham RSL	15th
MCCS Board Meeting	15th
Meditation 2nd Tues/4th Wed	10th & NA
DRAG BINGO Salisbury Hotel	NA
Men Becoming Real: Thursday 7pm	NA

Thought about becoming Newsletter Editor?

Lee has been our Newsletter Editor for the last **10 years**. With life's changes, she would love to hand over the keyboard to someone with fresh ideas and some time. If you think this 'talks' to you then have a chat with Lee and make a start in the New Year.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends,
 As we move toward the Advent/Christmas mystery, I have been pondering these words from Richard Rohr in his book, "Preparing for Christmas":
 "How do we give birth, as Mary did? We tend to manage life more than just live it. We are trained to be managers, to organize life, to make things happen. That is what built our culture. It is not all bad, but if you transfer that to the spiritual life, it is pure heresy. It is wrong. It doesn't work. It is not gospel. We might be economically rich but not spiritually fertile, as Isaiah teaches. If Mary was trustfully carrying Jesus during this time, it is because she knew how to receive spiritual gifts, in fact THE spiritual gift. She is probably the perfect image of how fertility and fruitfulness break into this world. We can't manage, manoeuvre, or manipulate spiritual energy. It is a matter of letting go and receiving what is being given freely. It is the gradual emptying of our attachment to our small self so there is room for a new conception and a new birth....Mary does not manage, fix, control or "perform" in any way. She just says "yes!" and brings forth the abundance that Isaiah promises."

What are some of the spiritual gifts you can identify in yourself that you have freely received during the course of your lifetime? In mid 2020, we'll hold a retreat day to help us all focus on that question in more detail and to help us identify some of the spiritual gifts we possess with an invitation to allow those gifts to freely flow.

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As part of the family of MCC Sydney, what will be the “Yes” to God you will carry into 2020? As your Senior Pastor, that’s one of the questions I’m most interested in, because that’s one of the places where God is moving powerfully. That’s how we construct the story of what God is doing in our church – by weaving together the beautiful threads of each of our own lives and calls into the tapestry God is creating here at MCC Sydney. May this coming year be a year of deep joy as we each bring the “Yes” of Mary’s heart into our own and embrace the spiritual gifts God has given us to breathe new life into our own journey, as well as into the life of the church and the world.

Blessings,
Dale.

The Reverend Dale Yardy
Senior Pastor



I believe God wants you to know

.....that all families have troubles in them. Problem-free families do not exist. Indeed, the challenges in families are family's greatest gifts. How else could we be healed of all the false notions we have about what it means to be human? How else could we learn of real love, and of true compassion, of real dedication and of total acceptance?

There is, of course, nothing to learn. There is only for us to remember what we have always known.

And families give us the greatest opportunity to do that.

Therefore, don't write off "Uncle Charlie" or "Aunt Mary" or your challenging offspring or your ‘overly caring’ or distant spouse. Rather, embrace them even more fully and show them what it means to be fully human...so that they can find their way back home.

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch



**Christmas Eve Service
Sydney Town Hall**

We are looking for Volunteers for the Christmas Eve Service. Come and be a part of the biggest MCCS event of the year.

We need:

USHERS

COMMUNION ACOLYTES

CHOIR MEMBERS on stage...WOW

Let Rev Dale or Pj know if you are interested.



December Mid Week Adventure

Manly Beach for Fish n Chips & a Swim

Wednesday 11 Dec

We will meet at Circular Quay and catch the Manly ferry over to the beach together.

Details upon enquiry. Lee



***HURRAY! BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS
AND
ACCOMODATION ASAP.***



***THE TENNIS IS ON AT THE SAME TIME
Network Gathering 2020 at MCC Melbourne
Friday Jan 31 to Sunday Feb 2***

Come join us. Meet the rest of your MCC Family in Australia and NZ. Catch up with friends

Get involved in the bigger picture.

Meet the NEW MODERATOR. Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/MCCNetworkGathering>

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Read Matthew 7:6

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you. (NRSV)

What on earth was Jesus thinking to say this? It is a saying that seems to come ‘out of the blue’. Yet it may not be quite that obscure. Jesus has been talking about **not judging others**. Perhaps some hearers might have mistakenly assumed this meant we don’t exercise any discrimination or offer any criticism of others.

So Jesus goes on to say that there might be occasions when it is right and proper to exercise such critical discernment. Jesus also knew that in some situations it was pretty futile to seek to persuade another person as to the truth about himself. Both Herod and Pilate fall into this category.

Applying this text to ourselves might have us beware of entering into fiery arguments about our faith. Or trying to persuade someone who has already persuaded us their minds are made up. While we are to share our faith at every opportune time, Jesus seems to suggest there may be times that are not opportune.

Certainly we trust that the Holy Spirit can penetrate the deepest defences, but it also seems that there are times when we discern that the time or place or person is not right. Our treasured gospel might be opposed and attacked, but we don’t put ourselves in positions where we positively invite it to be attacked. Not every public debate or dinner-table conversation or social media opportunity is an appropriate sphere for faith sharing.

Our boldness is to be accompanied by discretion.

Blessings, David Reay

DOUBLE your Inner Peace

LGBTQI Meditation at MCC Sydney

Every **2nd & 4th Wednesday** 7-8.30pm

Come and join us at MCC Sydney to experience deep inner peace and joy: a deeper connection with your heart and soul in



a loving, nurturing and safe environment.

Simple and practical techniques and beautiful guided meditations.

Robyn robynrice@bigpond.com 0412652 703



A Blessing For You



May you be blessed by the God of Love whose greatest desire is to be one with you. May you draw close and know the thrill of God's beating heart against your own. May this Lover God be a listening presence in every word and thought and experience of your existence. May the fire and passion of God's love for you move you to be a compassionate and loving presence to all you meet. May the God of Love be with you.

Maxine Shonk, OP

Want to Help Your Church?

Sell something on Gumtree or Facebook Market Place and donate the money to MCCS OR Give it to Lee and she will sell it.

FOR SALE

HOT BUTTERED (HB) 21”ORB Bodyboard \$50. In excellent condition.



ADJUSTABLE SINGLE BED less than half price \$1200. AS NEW. Never used. Remote controlled.



Beautiful Round Wooden Dining Table 1200mm plus 4 tablecloths \$250



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Just for Fun

These answers are from a Catholic Primary school test.

1. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree.
Noah's wife was joan of ark.
2. The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the genitals.
3. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
4. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, moses went up to mountcyanide to get the ten commandments.
5. The first commandments was when eve told adam to eat the apple.
6. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
7. Solomon, one of davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines
8. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.

Let's build up the Morning Choir

2 more singers would make the difference. Speak to Lee if interested. We come in just a little earlier to rehearse with the organist.

Want to sing in one of the Evening Music Teams?

Come on any Sunday to 5pm rehearsal and see how it feels.

Or do you play an instrument?

As for Evening Music Team singers, come along at 5pm to rehearsal. Let Pj know first if possible so the necessary cords and mikes can be set up.

More and more people are paying **electronically**. It's so easy to organise and takes the worry out of having to bring change with you. It helps the church budget for the future too. Here are the details:

BSB 082-048

Account no.509412200

PAYPAL is also an option.

Let's get behind the church

Leadership and support, financially, the work and needs of our church.

Imagine what we could achieve then.



give

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Board of Directors

Rev Dale Yardy Chair

Sarah de Rooy Secretary/Lay Delegate

secretary@mccsydney.org

Pj Dwyer Treasurer

brad Fisher Member

Peter Webster Member

Wayne Chilver Member

Andrew Higgs Member

Reflections Items to the Editor, Lee

(by end of week 3)

newsletter@mccsydney.org

Reconnect Team Rep

Lee reconnect@mccsydney.org

MCC Good Shepherd, Granville Tues.7

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com

CRAVE MCC, Paddington Sun.3pm

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

redchiron@gmail.com

Disability access



is via Crystal St

Hearing Loop is connected.

Parent's Room is

available for those noisy mo-



ments.

Morning Tea & Supper are served after each service.

Everyone is welcome