



Reflections



December '21

Seek Growth



Find



Life



Know love

Believe it into Life

CHURCH GOES LIVE ON DECEMBER 19

Advent Bible Study online @ 7.30pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84378063783?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84378063783?pwd=R1VvV2N5OWxvZHNvVTdLUGsyRUM5UT09)

[pwd=R1VvV2N5OWxvZHNvVTdLUGsyRUM5UT09](#)

Bible Study Theme: Jesus Christ.

The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

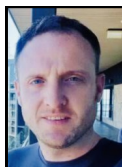
With Dr Mark Dagleish for 90mins

Wk 1 Wednesday December 1

Wk 2 Tuesday December 7

Wk 3 Tuesday December 14

Wk 4 Tuesday December 21



There will be no Fellowship For Forty in Dec.

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli

instagram & pinterest: stevemaraboli

HOPE is being able to see the light, despite all the darkness.

-Desmond Tutu



Editor's Corner

Giving The Gift of YOU to Others This Christmas

With Christmas on our doorstep, I invite you to take a moment to think about the people you've interacted with over the past week in every aspect of your life.

I invite you to consider each of them specifically, and imagine what they came away from that interaction thinking and feeling about you.

Did you smile or say something clever or complimentary that brightened their day?

Did you help them in some way -- to load something heavy into their car, perhaps, or let them go in front of you in line at the grocery store because they had less items than you?

Did you encourage them or provide solace, give them advice, or offer suggestions to help them improve something?

Did you call someone up to see how they are going instead of sending a quick text?

Perhaps you offered to help someone who was inviting others to give them a hand.

Maybe you thought that a volunteer may need a break and offered to take on their role for a while.

To be a **gift to others** suggests you give them something, and often all you have time to give them is a smile, as you pass a stranger on the street, or are standing next to them in line at the grocery store.

The kind of person who lives in this generous and selfless way tends to be living a joyful and deeply fulfilling life themselves, which inspires them to want to share that wealth with everyone they meet, and so they do.

Giving of yourself to others has its own unlimited reward also. You feel better when you know you have helped someone. What will you give this Christmas? May God bless you all. Editor

Facing Christ This Christmas

During the Christmas season, the Church beckons us to contemplate the Christ Child. There are many ways to do this, but two are particularly fitting for the season. The first is to contemplate **Christ within the Nativity scene**. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The Nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. We are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became human in order to encounter us all. We come to realize that so great is God's love for us that God became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with God. We can find Joseph and Mary, silent witnesses of a sublime mystery. With their look of love they invite us to be vigilant and to pray to receive the divine Saviour, who comes to bring the joy of Christmas to the world."



Prayer, especially prayer that enables us to effectively contemplate Christ, can help us "put on Christ," which leads us to our goal of eternal life with God in heaven. We have to learn to pray: 'Lord, teach us to pray!' (Lk 11:1)," "Prayer develops that conversation with Christ which makes us his intimate friends: 'Abide in me and I in you' (John 15:4)."

This interplay, is the very substance and soul of the Christian life, and the condition of all true pastoral life.

As we celebrate another Christmas season, let us rejoice in the gift of the incarnate Saviour, the one who, through **contemplation** and **prayer** at the Nativity Scene, sustains us in Gospel living and guides us to heaven.

Gretchen R. Crowe is editorial director for periodicals at OSV.



I believe God wants you to know

On this day of your life

I believe God wants you to know that your trust has not been misplaced.

Listen to your Self today. You have been telling yourself something very important for days now. Today, listen more closely. And really pay attention. Trust the still, small voice within. Your soul is gently leading you to your next step.

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch

A Blessing For You -Maxine Shonk OP

May the God who forms Community be with you. May you engage this God in mutual attention to what is holy and fulfilling and what brings joy and delight and depth of understanding for the other. May your communion with God move you to growth of your inner spirit and to compassion for a world that awaits connection with its Creator. May the God of Community bless you all your days.



God Loves Us from Eternity to Eternity

I have always been very conscious of my clock-time. When I was thirty I said: "I can easily live another thirty!" When I was forty, I mused, "Maybe I am only halfway!" Today I can no longer say that, and my question has become: "How am I going to use the few years left to me?" All these concerns about our clock-time come from our own limited sense of Time. They are based on the presupposition that our chronology is all we have to live. But looked upon from God's perspective, our clock-time is embedded in the timeless embrace of God. Looked upon from above, our years on earth are not simply chronos, but kairos—another Greek word for time—which is the opportunity to claim for ourselves the love that God offers us from eternity to eternity. Henry J.M. Nouwen



Lifewords

JUST AS I AM

Read Mark 1:16-20

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed Jesus. A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired fisher folk.. (NIV)

It would seem that the guys Jesus chose to follow him had not been put through some psychological aptitude test...to indicate if they were worthy. Jesus invited them to follow him and they did. They made lots of mistakes, and lots of things never sunk into their heads. But it seems they learnt on the job. It seems Jesus was more concerned for **availability** than **ability**. It seems Jesus called them just as they were and expected them to grow along the way as they journeyed with him.

We can follow Jesus and be fruitful in his service without having to wait to be ready for it. We are not to wait till we get ourselves sorted out. For most of us, that would mean waiting forever! Jesus will take us on-board and help us get sorted out along the way, always understanding that this side of heaven none of us is well and truly sorted out.

We come to Jesus just as we are and let Jesus get to work on us. He only works on broken and weak people because in truth they are the only ones around the place. We are all in that situation, though some don't admit it. Come as you are, and let Jesus help you become who you were made you to be.

Blessings,
David
Reay



The Board Walk

It is hard to believe we are at the end of 2021, a year which has seen so many challenges and struggles. I would like to thank you all for your support of MCC Sydney and I'm sure we are all looking forward to being back to worshipping in person on the 19th of December.



I would also like to thank all those who have worked hard to ensure that through lockdown MCC Sydney has continued to hold 2 virtual services a week, plus bible study and fellowship for 40. These have been so valuable to help us all stay connected as a community.

It is perhaps apt that we are commencing our in-person services during the season of Advent, which began on Sunday November 28. Advent is a time for reflection and examination of our lives, of our Church and how we come together as a community. For we do not worship only in light of what God has done in the past. We worship in the promise of God, of all that is to come.

I hope this Advent we can be drawn more deeply into that experience and listen to the longings and hopes that are within us and within MCC Sydney. I pray that 2022 can be a year of new birth, new hope and new life for all at MCC Sydney.

Blessings, Rev Gavin
on behalf of the Board of Directors



Christmas Day Lunch at Petersham RSL

Come and join your Church Family for a sumptuous 3 course Christmas Lunch.

Club Members \$80

Non Members \$90

Members get a discount on drinks at the bar.

Can't make it? Could you sponsor someone

See the Shout Out or the website for the

Try Booking method of paying.

It will be a great time of celebration



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It's so easy to pay electronically. Or use PAYPAL

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 082-048

Account: 509412200

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney

Fast Payments:

PayID: treasurer@mccsydney.org

BSB: 082-356

Account: 780 749 9652

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney



Mardi Gras returns in 2022!

The Mardi Gras Festival will be making its grand return! From 18 February to the Parade on 5 March, prepare for an exciting season of films, parties & performances.

Our theme **UNITED WE SHINE** signifies that when we band together, we shine brighter. It is a rallying call to stand up against hate and inequality, reminding us that when we rise as a collective, our message of love and inclusion is heard louder.

It's time to unite and shine for the 44th Mardi Gras Parade! On Saturday 5 March, our dazzling display of LGBTQI+ pride will descend on the Sydney Cricket Ground once more. Tickets on sale NOW!



Merry Christmas



CONTACTS FOR MCC SYDNEY

9569 5122

96 Crystal Street Petersham 2049

www.mccsydney.org

Office Manager P/T Von Ingram
office@mccsydney.org

Website Administrator Ben Prasodo
ben.wong4bear@gmail.com

Facebook Administrator Duane
carloswebster1962@gmail.com



Board of Directors

Rev Gavin Ward Acting Chair

Sarah de Rooy Secretary

secretary@mccsydney.org

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Reflections Items to the Editor

newsletter@mccsydney.org

Questions, adding/changing your details, join FB closed group, advertising Events

office@mccsydney.org

MCC Good Shepherd, Granville

Tuesday @ 7pm

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com

CRAVE MCC, Sydney City

Sunday @ 4pm

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

redchiron@gmail.com



Our Church Building will open again on December 19

Everyone is welcome.

Rev Greg Smith will be bringing us the Message.

Set aside everything else and come and celebrate with us.