

WELCOME TO **St PAUL'S** **ANGLICAN CHURCH**

WHAT'S ON AT ST PAULS

BURWOOD

- ≈ **Monday 29th July at 7.30pm** – Meditation
- ≈ **Tuesday 30th July** –Study Group at 7.30pm in the rectory
- ≈ **Tuesday 6th August at 10am** - Community Hub in the large hall
- ≈ **Tuesday 20th August at 1.15pm** - Lunchtime Recital - Conservatorium Students
- ≈ **Sunday 25th of August in the Rectory at 11.-** Winter Fundraiser
- ≈ **Tuesday 10th September at 1.15pm** - Lunchtime Recital - Sydney Clarinet Choir - Deborah de Graaff
- ≈ **Saturday 21st of September at 1pm** - Blue Illusion Fundraiser
- ≈ **Sunday 22nd of September** - Artisans' Market
- ≈ **Tuesday 8th October at 1.15pm** - Jo Burton – Soprano; Nicole Smeulders – Contralto Jenny Samild - Piano
A program of Kurt Weill and Stephen Sondheim

WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S. We are glad that you have come to worship God with us today. If you are a visitor from another parish, or worshipping with us for the first time, please introduce yourself to our parish priest, Fr James Collins, or to anyone wearing a name badge, over a cup of tea or coffee in the parish hall after the service. You'll find the hall behind the church.

圣公会圣保罗堂欢迎你前来参加我们的英语传统圣乐圣餐崇拜。

Sunday 28th July 2019
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship...

- * 8.00 am – Sung Eucharist
- * 9.30 am – Choral Eucharist

Included in this issue ...

- ≈ Welcome! we are glad that you have found us! p.3
- ≈ Lunchtime Recital Tuesday 23 July 2019 P.5
- ≈ Jumpers for Nepal p.7
- ≈ Facts belie positive spin on homelessness p.17 - By Eliza Berlage

And Much More...

Things you may need to know



First Aid

First aid kits are located on the wall of the kitchen in the Large Hall behind the church and in the choir vestry.



Name badges

Name badges help make St Paul's an inclusive community. If you need a new name badge, fill in the form inside the pew sheet, send it to the parish office, and one will be made and left in church for you.



Toilets

Toilets are available at the entrance to the parish hall, which is located behind the church.



Still got ques-

Ask a member of the clergy or anyone who's wearing a name badge. We're here to help.

In case we need to evacuate



As you take your place in your pew, please make yourself aware of the route to the nearest emergency exit. Should there be a fire, leave quickly, turn right, and assemble by the roundabout on Burwood Road.

Getting inside



People needing wheelchair access can enter St Paul's most conveniently by the door at the base of the belltower.

Switch it to silent !



Please turn your mobile phone off or on to silent before the service starts. It'll save you much embarrassment later on.

Children are welcome at St Paul's



Children are welcome in church at any service. There is a selection of children's books and toys at the back of the church near the font and there are also kids' activity sheets and pencils available at the back of the church where the pew sheets and prayer books are.

Children's Church runs during Term Time. Meet at the back of the church at the beginning of the 9.30am Eucharist.

Please feel free to bring your children to the altar rail to receive a blessing, or to receive Communion if they have been admitted to the sacrament.

Photos



Please do not take photos inside the church or during the services of worship without permission.

News from around St Paul's

Welcome! We are glad that you have found us!

We affirm that through God's redeeming love for all, we are one in Christ. We respect the inherent and valuable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons of any age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnic origin, economic reality, family status, sexual orientation, diverse ability, or social status. We believe that through Christ we are being included and welcomed by God and one another. As we journey towards inclusion, we proclaim this welcome to all God's people, especially to those who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church, affirming that no one is excluded or condemned. We invite all

persons to journey with us as we discover the call of God on our lives through the ministries of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood. To that end, St. Paul's Anglican Church commits to the welcome and inclusion of all persons as children of God and declares itself to be a welcoming community of faith.

Your help is needed!

We need volunteers for the Artisans' Market on Sunday 22nd of September and Sunday 1st of December.

We also need volunteers for an Up Market market at Woodstock on the 8th of September and 10th of November.

Please let Jane Carrick or the office know if you are able to help in any of those dates. Thank you.

Bible Readings at today's Eucharist

Year C

Bible Readings for next Sunday

Hosea 1.2-10

The First Reading

Hosea 11.1-11

Ps 85

The Psalm

Ps 107.1-9,43

Colossians 2.6-15 (16-19)

The Epistle

Colossians 3.1-11

Luke 11.1-13

The Gospel

Luke 12.13-21

Christian Meditation Group Monday Night at 7.30pm in the Chapel of our Lady

All are welcome to join this newly-formed Christian Meditation group. This opportunity provides a space during the week to experience stillness and to be Present with God in contemplation and community.

Participants will be invited into the practice of Christian mediation in a manner that is both guided and community-oriented. Each week's group will commence with teaching and guidance, followed by a time of silence in prayer. In our fast-paced and noisy world, all are most welcome to spend time with God in silence and in community.

Tuesday Night Study

The Tuesday night study is proving to be very popular with over a dozen people coming along most evenings. It is held every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Rectory. Our new study of *Knowing Christ* by Alister McGrath. All are welcome.

Thank you Joshua for your wonderful playing at Tuesday's recital!

Joshua played with great musicality and colour with excellent control of technique and dynamics. The selection of music that you played was profoundly beautiful. It was very kind of Fr. Michael to serve as your very capable page turner.

As always, Jane and Bob and a wonderful team of people made the refreshments after the recital a splendid treat for the large number of people who attended. Indeed, Tuesday's recital was the best attended throughout our recital series.

We are grateful to Sheryl for all of the work that she gives to make our recital series such an amazing and successful programme.

We wish Joshua all the very best and pray for God's blessing on his studies, his musical career, and with his life.

He will always have a home here at St. Paul's.

With every blessing.

Peace,
James.

Lunchtime Recital Tuesday 23 July 2019

Organist, Joshua Ryan, performed music by J S Bach, Charles Marie Widor, Louis Vierne and César Franck in his farewell recital for St Paul's Burwood. We thank him very much for his excellent playing; in Widor's Méditation his registration was judiciously selected to produce an evocative mood. The colour palette he chose for Chorale in B minor by César Franck was sensitively done, with well-defined contrasts.

Joshua's following was evident with the size of the audience, our biggest one for a Lunchtime Recital. He leaves in a few weeks to commence post graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London. We wish every success as he embarks on another stage of his career.

- Sheryl Southwood OAM

Fr. Michael helping out at St. John's, Dee Why

Fr. Michael has kindly offered to Preside and Preach at St. John's, Dee Why, today, Sunday 28th of July.

It is wonderful that Fr. Michael is able to exercise his Priestly ministry at St. John's so that the Clergy in this Parish can have a well-earned break.

Spring Raffle

We are having a Spring Raffle (replacing the Father's Day Raffle). The prizes include a wonderful food hamper donated by our organist Aleks's Mum and a Tiffany Lamp among other things. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and are available now.

Facebook!

You can join us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7441384898/>



Forthcoming events and other interesting news will be posted there!

Thank you Margaret Whittaker for your care in administrating our Facebook page.

Thank yous

Thank you to Breakfast Point Rotary Club for donating meat for parish pantry.

Thank you to all who helped to make Jim Foster's funeral such a fitting tribute to Jim.

Thank you to David and Pam Priest for reassembling and reconditioning the pew bench in the hall.

Thank you to the Opshop Management Committee at St Luke's Anglican Church Parish of Enmore with Stanmore for their generous donation of \$500 to purchase groceries to the parish pantry.

Thank you email from Fr James to St Luke's Anglican Church Churchwarden

Dear Ruth,

I hope that you are well.

At a time when services are being withdrawn from those most in need of them, I write to thank you most sincerely for the wonderfully generous gift from the Saint Luke's Opshop. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and can you please thank everyone concerned? Thank you.

Those in need deserve better but, as with the lack of affordable/social housing, the lack of provision of adequate health care (including mental health care), and the lack of provision of adequate support services, they seem to have become the targets of the meanness that is creeping into Australian society.

Australia is better than the punitive and mean policies and practices that are appealing to the worst in human nature and which add nothing to the common good. We really can't pretend to be a Christian country anymore when we fail to care for those whose needs are greatest.

Thank you for your care for those in need. We will care for everyone at St. Paul's, for everyone is made in God's image and all people deserve to be cared for and treated with respect, and your gift is a means to provide for the needs of those whom we care for.

May God bless you and keep you.

With every blessing.

Peace,
James.

JUMPERS FOR NEPAL

Emily and Julie, Marjorie and Susan have been knitting up a storm.

We estimate more than 80 jumpers have now been knitted for the children at SMD school in Kathmandu.



They are so colourful and will be fun to wear. Thank you to everyone who is involved in this project, the ideas people, the suppliers of yarn and the knitters and packers. We will find a friendly Yak or two to carry them up to Nepal.

Hand rails for the Rectory

We have become aware that the entrance to the Rectory opposite the church is difficult for some of our parishioners to negotiate. Although there are only a few stairs there is nothing to hang onto if you have difficulty in any way.

We have received some quotes to have this rectified so those that those who need to can be safe when entering or even able to enter the rectory at all. The quote including GST is \$1900 and we are hoping that maybe some parishioners would be able to assist with a donation towards the cost.

This could be made via the National Trust account if you would like it to be a tax deductible donation. Please contact Pam or place a donation in an envelope and label National Trust donation and include your name for a receipt and an address to post it to. Or see the bank details under donations and bequests on page 12. Thank you.

My Community Grants Voting

St Paul's has submitted three grant applications which have been approved by the state government to go ahead to the next stage, which is a public voting process. We are competing with other grant applications in the electorate of Strathfield.

Grants will be awarded by voting. The voting system will be preferential. This means that it will be very easy to cancel each of our projects out unless we stick to our "How to vote" list.

Therefore, if you wish to vote for our parish projects we ask you to consider voting as below, which will give us the best chance of being awarded the first two grants and maybe the third grant as well.

The voting process can be difficult. Bob Woods and Jane Carrick and those in the church office are happy to do this for/with you. You will need a Medicare card and, ideally, but not essentially, an email address. If you already have a "service nsw" account, please bring this as it will speed things up.

In order to vote you need this "service nsw" account. Many people already have this account and use it for renewing such things as car rego and driving licences etc. if you do not have one they are very easy to create. During the voting process you are given an option to create a "service nsw" account. It is straightforward but you will need an ordinary email address as part of the confirmation process. If you have any problems with this, again, contact Jane or Bob.

During the voting process you will be asked for your Medicare card details, so have this handy.

Voting closes on August 15th.

Bob and Jane will be in the rectory office after each of the next three Sunday services.

Contact: Jane 0418 399 664 Bob 0412 973 344.

How to Vote

To vote, log into:

mycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au from your browser.

Open the FIRST website.

Scroll down to “want more information?” and click on “How to Vote”

Select your electorate from Home Page (Strathfield)

Browse the various projects which are available in Strathfield.

Click one of the “short list” buttons underneath ONE of the three St Paul’s Projects (as below)

1. Parish Pantry kitchen and Community Garden Upgrade (\$42,737)
2. Expansion of Community Music Program at St Paul’s (\$21,500)
3. Upgrade security/safety at St Paul’s heritage church (\$54,987)

At this point you will be asked to login to or create a My Service NSW account. Follow all the instructions, including the one which says ‘I’m not a robot’ When you click on this you will be asked to click on all the pictures which have specific item in them (such as cars, or bikes or buses)

You will need your Medicare card (follow the prompts for this information)

Then click the shortlist button underneath the OTHER TWO St Paul’s projects. MAKE SURE YOU arrange the order of voting preference as listed above by clicking on the up and down arrows beside the projects before submitting your vote.

If you would like to vote but are having difficulty Bob and Jane will be available after the services to help you

Or come to the office during the week and Caroline or Rosemary will help you.

You can only vote once.

Voting closes on the 15th August

Thank you for making the effort. Every vote will be crucial.

Can you please encourage your local friends and relatives to vote for us.

The 150th Anniversary of St. Paul's, Burwood

The 150th anniversary of St. Paul's, Burwood, is approaching quickly and there will be two main Services:

Sunday the 1st of August, 2021, at 9.30 a.m. being the closest Sunday to the 150th anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone at St. Paul's, Burwood (the laying of the foundation stone was actually on the 29th of July, 1871).

Sunday the 17th of April, 2022, at 9.30 a.m. being Easter Day and a Sunday close to the 150th anniversary of the First Service at St. Paul's, Burwood (the first Service was actually on the 27th of April, 1872). I suspect that if we held this Service on Sunday the 24th of April, 2022, that very few people would come as they would be taking a break after Easter.

St. Paul's has played an important role in the life of Burwood from before Burwood became a municipality in 1874.

I am pleased to say that St. Paul's is flourishing both as a worshipping community of faith and as an active and vital part of our community

providing love and care, both pastorally and materially, to all in our area.

We will be launching a new publication marking our 150th Anniversary on Sunday the 1st of August, 2021.

The history of St. Paul's is a rich and wonderful history but always with two main foci:

St. Paul's is one of the very few Anglican Parishes in Sydney to have been founded on Tractarian/High Church principles where our beautiful worship of God is to be lived out in the reality of our lives. Our love for God must necessarily compel us to love and care for all others.

I trust, that by God's grace, St. Paul's, Burwood, will continue to flourish in faith, hope, and love and be a beacon of hope in our community.

To help with the production and publication of the new Parish History, Dr. Desmond Chu will be taking photographs at different times and of different groups and activities to showcase the ongoing life of the Parish.

It is very kind of Dr. Chu to donate his time and God-given skills as we look forward to celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. Paul's and as we give thanks to God for all of God's blessings and for God's faithfulness over all of these years.

ST PAUL'S SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

LIFE JACKET

Evenings

8th August
4th September
2nd October

HUB

10.00-12.00 noon

6th August
1st October

PANTRY

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30-11.30 am

PARISH PANTRY donations of food are always welcomed because the need is so great. (see list p. 10)

LIFE JACKET

Due to peoples' boundless generosity donations for Life Jacket have far exceeded need. We would ask you to hold on to items of clothing until a specific request is made.

OP SHOP

We will be opening an Op Shop in a few months time and will be looking for high end new or near new clothing. This Op Shop will be for clothing only. We will not be selling Bric a Brac.

We are not ready to accept any clothing yet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OP SHOP WATCH THIS SPACE

Bread Roster 2019

- ≈ 29th July - Antonia
- ≈ 5th August - Gabriel
- ≈ 12th August - Margaret
- ≈ 19th August - Gabriel
- ≈ 26th August - Kerin
- ≈ 2nd September - Gabriel
- ≈ 9th September - Margaret
- ≈ 16th September - Antonia

NB: Tom and his family now collect bread on Wednesday nights.

Join us for our next Winter Fundraiser

It will be on **Sunday 25th August** and it will be Soup/Slice. Please keep the date free.

Blue Illusion Fundraiser

When: Saturday 21st September at 1pm

Where: Blue Illusions, Level 2, Westfield Burwood

**For General Donations
please use this account
details:**

**Account Name: St Pauls Anglican
Church**

BSB: 032 062

Account #: 250028

**For Parish Pantry Donation
please use this account
details:**

**Account Name: Parish Pantry
Account**

BSB: 032 062

Account #: 812238

Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory -

**Collection given at St Paul's on
Sunday 21st July:**

≈ Offertory: \$2273

≈ Parish Pantry: \$530

≈ Building Fund: \$10

≈ General Donation: \$1000

Total: \$3813

*Thank you for responding to God's
generous love.*



Donations and Bequests

Over the years the parish has benefited from the generosity of parishioners, not only when they have been active members of the parish, but also at the time of their death. Parishioners are invited to remember the parish in their wills by making a bequest as a thank offering to God and to ensure that generations to come will enjoy worship and fellowship in well maintained buildings.

Those wishing to make a bequest are invited to do so using these or a similar form of words: " I bequeath the sum of \$..... to the Rector and Wardens of the Anglican parish of St Paul, Burwood, to be used at their absolute discretion for the charitable purposes of the parish."

Donations with Tax Deductibility

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish for the upkeep and maintenance of the Heritage building it can be done through the National Trust.

Cheques can be made out to:

National Trust of Australia (NSW) St Paul's Anglican Church Burwood

Or

Direct Credit to the above name with bank account details:

Westpac

BSB: 032-044

Account number: 742 926

Branch: 275 George Street Sydney NSW

Please contact Pam for more details or place a donation in an envelope and label with National Trust donation and include your name for your receipt and an address to post it to. Thank you.

List of items most needed for the parish pantry:

- **Sun Rice Meals** e.g. Butter chicken, Green chicken curry, Chicken satay, etc
- **Boxed meals**
- **Tins of** corned beef, spam, ham;
- **Sugar;**
- **Boxes of Cereals**
- **All Day Breakfast** by Heinz;
- ≈ Tinned tuna, sardines,
- ≈ Harvest Meals in a tin eg Vegetables and Sausages
- ≈ Rice, cuscus, polenta, instant potato, pasta, spaghetti
- Tinned corn
- ≈ Sweet & savoury biscuits;
- ≈ **Tinned fruit**
- ≈ Rice Cream
- ≈ Pasta sauces

For the kitchen:

- Washing up liquid
- ≈ Paper towels
- ≈ Chux
- ≈ Sponges

For the laundry:

- Washing powder

Health

- Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste

EACH WEEK WE RUN OUT OF :

- ♦ **MILK**
- ♦ **CEREALS**
- ♦ **SUNRISE MEALS IN A BOX**
- ♦ **SPAM AND CORNED BEEF**
- ♦ **COFFEE**



Torches and Fans are available for sale!



The wonderful torches and a few fans are available again from the trading table. They are \$3 each or two for \$5. This could include a fan and a torch or two torches or two fans.

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BURWOOD

LUNCHTIME RECITAL DATES 2019

1.15pm – 1.45pm

August 20	Conservatorium students
September 10	Sydney Clarinet Choir - Deborah de Graaff
October 8	Jo Burton - Soprano, Nicole Smeulders - Contralto Jenny Samild - Piano A program of Kurt Weill and Stephen Sondheim
October 15	Conservatorium students
November 5	James McDonald - Guitar
November 19	Christopher Harris - Baritone
December 17	Kathryn Dries - Mezzo Soprano

READ, LEARN AND INWARDLY DIGEST...

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation - From the Center for Action and Contemplation

Prophets: Part Two

The Edge of the Inside

Prophets, by their very nature, cannot be at the center of any social structure. Rather, they are “on the edge of the inside.” They cannot be full insiders, but they cannot throw rocks from outside either. A true prophet must be educated inside the system, knowing and living the rules, before they can critique what is non-essential or not so important. Jesus did this masterfully (see Matthew 5:17-48). This is what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught the United States, what Gandhi taught British-occupied India, and what Nelson Mandela taught apartheid South Africa.

Only with great respect for and understanding of the rules can a prophet know how to properly break those very same rules—for the sake of a greater purpose and value. A prophet critiques a system by quoting its own documents, constitutions, heroes, and Scriptures against its present practice. This is their secret: systems are best unlocked from inside, and not by negative or angry people.

Holding the tension of opposites is the necessary education of the prophet, yet Christianity has given little energy to what Paul says is the second most important charism for building the church (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11). Prophets must be skilled in nondual thinking, but churches have primarily trained people in the simplistic choosing of one idealized alternative while denigrating the other. This has gotten us nowhere.

After Christianity became the established religion of the Empire in the fourth century, the priestly mentality pretty much took over in both East and West, and prophets almost disappeared. When the Church held so much power, prophets were too threatening to the status quo. The clergy were at the top of the hierarchy in the full company of their patrons—

kings and princes—and even began to dress like them. Emperors convened and presided over the first seven Councils of the Church. What does this tell us?

For the next 1700 or so years, most of the preaching and interpretation of Scripture was from the perspective of power, from primarily European, educated, quite comfortable, and presumably celibate males. I am one myself, and we are not all bad. But we are not all—by a long shot! Where are the voices of women, people of color, LGBTQ folk, the poor, and differently abled? How would they read the Gospel? Without these voices included, even central, I see little future for Christianity.

My spiritual father, St. Francis of Assisi, saw this problem in the thirteenth century and called people to live on the edge—of the Church, of the dominant economy which always protects the top, of patriarchy, of the “system”—through universal solidarity and chosen simplicity. Pope Francis is evoking the same Gospel spirit, and I pray for his success and protection. What a surprise that the ultimate establishment figure took the name of such a radical saint. It shocked the world because we do not expect prophecy from popes. There is hope!

Facts belie positive spin on homelessness **- By Eliza Berlage**

Housing Minister Luke Howarth came under fire for saying he wanted to put a 'positive spin' on homelessness, but worse than his comments is the misinformation. Howarth said homelessness affects a 'very, very small percentage of the population' and only 'about half a per cent of the population don't have a permanent roof over their head'. While an ABC RMIT fact check found his claim is correct, that still means one in every 200 Australians is experiencing homelessness.

As audience member Hayden Champion-Silver said on ABC's QandA: 'There's nothing positive about being homeless. There's not a single thing I could think of when I was homeless that was positive.'

When asked where I live, an unease rises in my gut as I decide how best to answer. Depending on the day I tell the questioner where my stuff is or where I am currently staying; they seem bemused by my hesitation but they accept. But if I say I am currently homeless they respond with surprise: 'But you don't look homeless.'

Homelessness has long been falsely equated with sleeping rough but in reality that makes up only a small proportion. Since 1996 the Australian Bureau of Statistics has been examining ways to better count and measure homelessness using the census.

The ABS devised six groups to collect data on homelessness. The statistics from 2016 were: persons living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out (seven per cent); persons in supported accommodation for the homeless (18 per cent); persons staying temporarily with other households (15 per cent); persons living in boarding houses (15 per cent); persons in other temporary lodgings (one per cent); and persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings (44 per cent).

However, data collection about homelessness using the census often still results in underestimation due to a lack of awareness about categories and a reluctance to report. The option was introduced for homeless people to write 'none' where it says 'usual address' or to write 'none-crisis' if in crisis accommodation. However, people escaping domestic violence often choose not to disclose this for a number of reasons such as stigma or a belief they may return to their home soon. Meanwhile, homeless youth may report the place where they are staying temporarily as their current address which would mean they are only counted as a visitor.

An additional issue is that there is likely a higher frequency of youth homelessness at any point in time than can be counted in a survey snapshot like the census. Young people can become homeless for a period, and possibly on multiple occasions. The ABS has suggested an incidence measure may be a better way to gather this sort of information.

Not having a place to call home is exhausting. This is exacerbated for the high proportion of homeless people who have a mental illness. They may worry that the slightest change in the mood of a place where they are residing rent free might upset them or those who are giving them shelter. For those who already see themselves as unworthy or a burden on others, accepting the generosity of others can feel like a conditional time bomb.

Addressing measures to reduce homelessness requires data to be as accurate as possible. The stronger the evidence, the better chance advocacy groups and non-for-profit organisations can have at lobbying for solutions such as more public and community housing and increasing initiatives like the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) and Housing First.

NRAS, which uses financial incentives to encourage investors to rent dwellings to those on low or moderate incomes at less than market value, was capped at 38,000 allocations in 2014-15 and the scheme ends in 2026. This seems like shocking foresight when you consider homelessness is increasing ahead of population growth — from 2011 to 2016 the population grew by eight per cent while homelessness went up by 14 per cent.

Meanwhile the number of affordable rentals for those doing it tough, such as on Newstart, minimum wage, pensioners and those on the disability support pension are incredibly scarce, and there is a severe lack of social housing, with 195,000 households on the waitlist.

Another key part of developing ways to combat homelessness is recognising the varied needs of vulnerable groups. Homelessness among young people and older people is rising steadily, while one in every 25 Indigenous people is homeless. Often governments roll out a one size fits all model which can waste resources where it would have been a smarter use of funding to differentiate solutions to suit specific demographics.

Every time someone who is homeless has to fill out a form that asks their address they are reminded of their precarious, unstable living situation. Every day that a person does not have a place to call home they expend energy organising somewhere to stay.

Having a dedicated housing minister presents an opportunity to take stock of what services are available and improve their availability, effectiveness and delivery. But Howarth needs to see the whole picture to do this rather than making glib assessments about the state of the homelessness.

The stigma and the stereotypes of homelessness harm all people who have unstable or insecure living arrangements. Not having correct perceptions and accurate data hinders the capacity for government and organisations to assist people effectively and for those people without a fixed address to find the right kind of support to survive and thrive.

Religious freedom feint has Liberals in knots - By Jeff Sparrow

'Never get high on your own supply,' the Notorious B.I.G. once warned. It's an injunction just as relevant to culture warriors as crack dealers. If you're a professional fulminator against Political Correctness Gone Mad, you need regular instances of persecution against straight white men to denounce, so that your supporters can maintain the ragegasms they crave. But the moment you start believing your own rhetoric, you're in real trouble.

Take the Liberal Party's gyrations over the so-called religious freedom law advocated by some within its own ranks. This time last year, Dan Tehan proposed a 'religious discrimination act', purportedly to prevent 'creeping encroachment from the state on religious belief'. He was quickly backed by Senator James Paterson, an alumni of the Institute for Public Affairs and thus an inveterate culture warrior. A report in the Australian nicely captures the haplessness of Paterson's intervention:

'Asked who was currently being discriminated against, Senator Paterson said: "This is a risk that we want to guard against in the future. We don't want people to be mistreated on the basis of their religious views."

Pressed on whether the problem exists currently, Paterson said: "I think that's a bit of a negative focus to take on it. People of faith feel like they are being hounded out of the public square ... like their views are not as welcome in being contributed to public debate as others."

Yes, that's right. Paterson wanted a new law, not to prevent any actually existing discrimination but to guard his ideological allies from any jibes that might prevent them 'feeling welcome' to participate in public debates.

But wait. Isn't that the same James Paterson who has dedicated years of his young life to campaigning against 18C of the Human Rights Act, specifically on the basis that special snowflakes needed to toughen up and embrace the rough and tumble of the agora? 'Freedom of speech is one of the most fundamental things about living in a liberal democracy,' he explained back in 2016, 'and if there are things that we can't talk about, that we can't write about, that we can't debate because it may offend or insult someone, for example, then I think we've lost something really important.'

It's wrong to make people feel unwelcome, but it's okay to offend and insult them. How do you square that particular circle? The short answer is that you can't, as the government is now discovering. The idea of legislation protecting 'religious freedom' emerged during the plebiscite on same-sex marriage and has since been turbocharged by the controversy over Israel Folau.

Josh Bornstein, a lawyer with Maurice Blackburn, has made (in my view) a compelling argument that the Folau sacking should be understood through the lens of industrial relations. Folau might be a millionaire but his case has implications for the increasing number of ordinary people employed on short-term contracts. As Bornstein says, bosses increasingly use such arrangements to 'control more and more of employees' lives well beyond the workplace', with workers signing clauses committing

themselves to company policies and nebulous codes of conduct.

Had other players and rugby fans mobilised to protest against Folau's homophobia, the demonstration of solidarity would have revealed him to be an isolated crank. Instead, the sacking transformed Folau into a culture war hero, allowed the Australian Christian Lobby to position itself as far more representative than it actually is, and established a dangerous precedent liable to be used against others.

In that sense, legislators seeking to actually address the implications of the case might have considered strengthening workplace protections. But, of course, that was never on the agenda. Instead, the episode brought the religious freedom pot back to the boil. Thus, in May, Attorney General Christian Porter described a draft Religious Discrimination Act he was considering.

'We would define an attribute just as we've done with attributes around sexual orientation, or age, or race, or other matters such as disability,' he said. 'We would define an attribute which is "religious adherence and expression", and then put into that Act a range of circumstances where it would become unlawful for people to discriminate against a person based on that attribute.'

To appreciate the difficulties with such a plan, we need only consider the lede to a story written by Lenore Taylor in February 2011: 'The opposition immigration spokesman, Scott Morrison, urged the shadow cabinet to capitalise on the electorate's growing concerns about "Muslim immigration", "Muslims in Australia" and the "inability" of Muslim migrants to integrate.'

After a fascist gunman killed more than 50 Muslim worshippers in Christchurch earlier this year, Morrison claimed that he'd been misrepresented eight years ago — though Taylor (now editor of the Guardian, where I am a columnist) insisted multiple sources had confirmed the story with her and with other reporters. Be that as it may, there's something truly odd about the Morrison government considering legislation that would make the arguments once attributed to Morrison

illegal. For what else could 'capitalising' on 'Muslim immigration' mean other than discrimination on the basis of religion?

That's now the problem facing the Coalition. The so-called conservative base wants religious protection for Christians. But the conservative base also has a long history of vilifying Muslims, who, presumably, could also claim protection from any new law. For instance, Cory Bernardi — a man with considerable support in Liberal Party branches — once introduced a bill banning burqas at airports and citizenship ceremonies. And who could forget that Pauline Hanson, another culture war hero, appearing in the Senate wearing a black burqa in an attempt to agitate for a ban? Round about the same time, Nationals MP George Christensen came within four votes of winning his party to such a prohibition.

At the time, Tony Abbott — the hero of the rightwing base — lent tentative support to Christensen. 'I think it is worth considering whether there are some places that are dedicated to Australian values,' he said, 'such as our courts, our

parliaments, our schools — maybe we do need to think about whether this garment is appropriate to be worn in places that are dedicated to upholding Australian values.'

One struggles to imagine a law that might enable, on the basis of religious freedom, a footballer's right to send homophobic tweets, while enabling courts, parliaments and schools to ban garments associated with faith.

In a different context, a proposal to reaffirm, through legislation, the right of Muslim women to wear burqas would drive the conservative fringe into hysteria. Yet rightwing elements in the coalition are campaigning for laws with precisely that effect. Even by the bizarre standards of Australian politics, it's a weird development, explicable only on the basis that so many of the louder voices on the right have come to believe their own self-pitying rhetoric that the persecution they supposedly face trumps that experienced by anyone else.

Bear in mind that, back in January 2017, the Grand Mufti of Australia, Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, proposed legislative protection for

religious believers. You can understand why. In Australia, as elsewhere, 'Islam' has been racialised by bigots, as the Christchurch massacre so terrifyingly demonstrated. In the most recent election, no fewer than ten parties ran on programs that were, in whole or part, Islamophobic. Hence the Grand Mufti's suggestion: he wanted 18C extended to apply to discrimination against religion.

That was, of course, opposed by none other than James Paterson. 'We have already seen how (18C) in its current, narrow way has restricted people's freedom of speech,' he said. 'This would further hamper it and would be a backwards step.'

Culture war: it's a hell of a drug.

Pew
Reflections
REFLECTIONS
BGM

~ Hosea 1.2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2.6-15 (16-19); Luke 11.1-13

Hosea's life must have been like a nightmare, being called by the Lord to marry a prostitute (symbolic of God's loving relationship with unfaithful Israel) and to give their children symbolic names relating to God's warnings of judgment on Israel – extreme action inspired by our loving God to try to draw the people back into relationship with God.

Centuries later and still today, Paul encourages us to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ who through the extreme loving action of the cross has delivered those who believe in him from all other influences that threaten to control our lives and draw us away from God. In order to do so, prayer is essential – prayer to God as a Father who seeks our cooperation to further his kingdom of love and who provides for our physical needs and will meet our spiritual needs.

~ Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly, spending time reflecting on each phrase in relation to your life.

~ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Text: The Rev Ross Cameron, Diocese of Brisbane © Anglican Board of Mission, 2019

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Pray throughout the week

Pray for the Anglican Church –

for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Philip Freier of Melbourne, Primate of Australia; Glenn, Archbishop of Sydney; Michael Stead, our Regional Bishop; and for all the bishops, priests, deacons and Religious of the Anglican Communion.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

we are asked to pray for The Scottish Episcopal Church, for The Most Revd Mark Strange - Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and for all his clergy and people.

Pray for Fr James and for Fr

Michael as well as for Helen and Antonia. May God bless them and their ministries and may we support them as they work among us in Christ's name.

Pray for St Paul's: God of mercy, strengthen us to help shape a parish where diversity is a source of enrichment, compassion is common, life's poetry realized, suffering lightened through sharing, justice attended, joy pervasive, hope lived, the hum of the universe heard, and together with you and each other we build what is beautiful, true, worthy of your generosity to us, an echo of your kingdom. Amen. (Ted Loder)

Pray for, St Matthew's, Zababdeh, (West Bank, Palestinian Territories), our Anglican Communion Partner:

We remember especially their Parish Priest, Fr Saleem Dawani, and his ministry in the parish. We remember also Jameel Maher, who acts as the St Matthew's partnership link person with us. May both our parishes be blessed by the link we are establishing.

Pray for the Church's mission:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honour of your name. Amen. (Author unknown)

Pray for our Children's Church:

The Lord said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them for such is the kingdom of heaven'. Bless, Lord, your children who now stand before you in prayer. Help them to understand the depth of your love.

O Lord, bless our Children's Church and all its future endeavours, that through it we may glorify you with your Father and the Holy Spirit, now, always and forever. **Amen.**

Pray for peace: Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth; lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust; lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Pray for all in need, This week we pray for all those people who fight to keep their religious liberty. May the Lord God give them strength and courage to keep firm in their witness.

Pray for the sick and their

carers: Joyce Bannister; Margaret Baseley; Jenny Bounds; John Burns, June Cameron; John Carey; George Cepak; Hilary Davies; Eugene; Florence; Elaine Hillier; Anna Laurence; Samuel Laurence; Mark Palmer; Shirley Lowe; Alister & Sally

Palmer; Geoff Riccord; Geraldine Rees; Margaret Wheatley; Bob Woods.

In love and charity please remember the recently departed

especially Fr Reg Mills, Herbert Thorburn & Mihaela Mitrovic-Tuckey that God may grant them a place of refreshment, light and peace.

Pray, too, for, Frank James Coe, Lorna Evans, Stanley Conchar, Shirley Pozzi, Francis Hewit Taylor, Marjorie White, Gordon Henry Gregory, Frank Ireland, George Edward Ellis, Cave Patricia Moon and for any others whose year's mind falls around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them!

Services during this week at St Paul's

A mid-week Eucharist will be held in the Chapel of our Lord's Passion on Wednesday at 10.30am.

Commemorations noted by the lectionary this week –

- * Monday 29th July - Mary and Martha of Bethany
- * Tuesday 30th July - William Wilberforce, social reformer (d.1833)
- * Wednesday 31st July - Joseph of Arimathea; Ignatius of Loyola, priest and founder of the Society of Jesus (d.1556)
- * Thursday 1st August - Holy men and women of the Old Testament
- * Saturday 3rd August - Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

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People's Wardens Mrs Elizabeth Griffiths – 8033 3113
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