

Father,
 we see in Jesus Christ
 your love and
 compassion for the
 whole world.
 By your Holy Spirit
 renew and empower us
 to witness to the world,
 that all may know your
 life and love. **Amen**

The Willochran

FOLLOWING Jesus.....PROCLAIMING his gospel.....CONNECTING with his worldand ENJOYING our common life.

4th Series, No 87, February 2012

Israel – Jordan Trip 2012

As one of the twelve people fortunate enough to travel to Israel with our Administrator and Vicar General, Michael Hillier and his wife June, I realised at the time and now in hindsight, that this trip was one of the most wonderful, spiritually-enriching, educational and impressive things that I could ever have hoped to undertake. Fellow travellers would heartily concur.

Fr Michael put in a great deal of time and effort prior to the pilgrimage by preparing an illustrated booklet, outlining the journeys and the sacred sights/sites we would see from day to day, concluding with a short summary and questions on the spiritual implications of what we saw and did. It was challenging and thought-provoking.



The group at the Romans ruins of Caesarea.

We left on Saturday 7 January, flying from Adelaide to Melbourne to Bangkok. After weathering the ferociously tight security measures considered to be quite normal for anyone boarding aircraft operated by the Israeli airline El Al, we flew into Ben Gurion International Airport early the next day, local time. Unfortunately, apart from our carry-on bags, the rest of our luggage didn't join us for two days. In the meantime we used items from an emergency pack supplied by the airline. Our accommodation was excellent and the food tasty and plentiful in each place. Falafel was generally our chosen food for the lunches we bought, though on one day near the Sea of Galilee we enjoyed a meal of St Peter's fish.



The Carmelite Monastery built over the cave associated with Elijah.

With our personable and knowledgeable local guides in both countries, George, a Palestinian Christian in Israel, and Omar, a Jordanian Christian, aided by careful drivers, we were able to visit the many sites which brought an even greater reality to the life and death of Jesus and of New Testament events. We also gained a greater perspective on Old Testament civilisations and history. For us, Christmas and Easter celebrations and the words of Jesus will never be quite the same. We will now see Nazareth, or Bethlehem, or Jerusalem, or Emmaus and other such significant places in our minds' eyes.

So many civilisations have come and gone in both countries, leaving amazing and beautifully built, but now largely ruined cities as their legacy, often destroyed as the result of earthquakes. An archaeologist's paradise! Amongst the many relics we saw were painstakingly crafted mosaics, Roman theatres and colonnades and wonderful systems for conveying precious water in a largely dry, rocky and barren land. With water anything is possible and we saw fields and plantations richly abundant with winter crops. ...continues page 3



The summit of Mt Nebo connected with Moses.

A Day with Mark

On Saturday 3rd December, about 35 people met in the hall of the cathedral at Pt. Pirie, to hear Dr Marie Turner speak about the Gospel of Mark. Marie is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at The Adelaide College of Divinity and Flinders University College of Theology and a practicing Roman Catholic. "The Year of....." has been happening in the Diocese for quite a few years now and is a joint enterprise between the Anglican and the Uniting Church.



Dr. Marie Turner presenting the 'Year of Mark' workshop.

Marie's style was very easy to listen to, as she presented the Gospel of Mark in a way that we could all understand and relate to.

We began with a background look at Mark, the type of person that scholars generally believe he was and to which audience he was speaking. We examined the way Mark's Gospel presents Jesus and how that differs from the other three Gospels. Marie pointed out that Mark's Gospel is concerned with the failure of the disciples and that the command to silence is intricately concerned with that failure. How do we, as 21st century Christians, react to that?

Dr Marie asked us to consider "The Parable of the Sower" and to try and imagine how the Jews of the day would have heard it and understood it. That was quite a hard exercise! We looked at the two "feeding stories" i.e. the five thousand and the four thousand. For the first time, I understood the differences between the two – the feeding of the five thousand was told for the Jewish people and the feeding of the four thousand was for the Gentiles – fascinating!

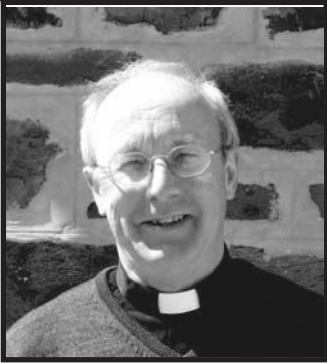


Above: Morning Tea break at the 'Year of Mark' workshop.

As always with these days, there is never enough time to delve deeply into the topic and we are always rushing at the end to finish, but it was well worth the drive to Pt. Pirie. I am sure that all who attended would have come away with some new insight into the Gospel of Mark. May these annual gatherings continue!

Rev'd Anne Ford, Priest at Minlaton

From the Administrator...



Dear friends in Christ,

The story is told of the Lone Ranger and his loyal and faithful Native American companion Tonto. They were surrounded by 25,000 angry Sioux and things looked grim. The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and said, 'This looks pretty tough, Tonto. What do you think we ought to do?' to which Tonto responded, 'What do you mean "we", white man?'

I begin with that humorous story because we live in a world largely dominated by individualism. It's everyone for themselves. We believe that success, failure and achievement all happen at a personal level. It's 'me' who has achieved or failed or succeeded. Yet, as Malcolm Gladwell points out in his book 'Outliers', even geniuses not only have to work very hard, but are also assisted by others every step along the way in achieving their success.

A new MDO!

I also raise this point because we now have a new Ministry Development Officer, Archdeacon Prue O'Donovan. This is an important position within the diocese. For some time we have longed to have an active MDO about the place. Along with other dioceses and in fact like all churches, our diocese faces significant problems. Because of that, we can consciously or unconsciously, invest in Prue alone the notion of what more than one person is capable of achieving. We can think, 'Now that we have an MDO it's over to her!' (Ditto when we welcome a new bishop!)

The Church is a community of people gathered around Jesus and as a result we are all in this together. He is the One who gathers us and holds us. If it were not for Him, many of us would have little in common. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are all gifted and all those gifts are needed for the community of faith, the Church, to reflect God's presence in His world. When I do not contribute my special gifts, then the Body of Christ suffers in some way.

Our Ministering Communities model tries to reflect this truth. We are all called, chosen, gifted by God in some way for service, to be part of His Body here on earth. Aboard this ship we call 'The Church', we are all part of the crew. Even those who through infirmity cannot physically do a great deal, can pray. Extraordinary things can come through the power of prayer. In reality, prayer should be the main tool for each of us and the place where we begin!

As Prue commences her new ministry, I encourage you to seek her out, talk over ideas and possibilities, use her gifts, and above all, work with her as part of a team. We are all in this together! Alone, Prue will not achieve a great deal, just as none of us can, but working together in the power of God's Spirit – well, extraordinary things become possible.

Some thoughts for Lent ...

As we move into the Season of Lent, I encourage you to think about the Church as a community and your place in it. Think too about your relationship with God and in what way do you need to deepen it? These are tasks for me as well. In Isaiah we read how God called Israel by name (45.3,4) and that too is true for us: God has called us by name and He has called His Church by name. We belong to Him and are special to Him. That is extraordinary!

As we face an uncertain future as a community and also as individuals, consider the huge trees that can often be found in dry riverbeds, especially in the north of this diocese. We may wonder how they manage to survive. And yet, as we know, they put long roots deep into the earth to provide their nourishment in times of drought and to act as firm anchors during high winds and storms.

May we all put down deep roots of faith and hope and love so that, as Jesus said, the water that He shall give us will become a 'spring of water gushing up to eternal life' (John 4.14). May our faith be so alive and vital that others will see it and be drawn to Him

With love in Christ,

Michael Hillier
- Administrator -

Coming Diocesan Events

February

- 20 **Diocesan Council** - Church Office, Gladstone
22 Ash Wednesday

March

- 2 - 4 **Lenten Retreat**, Burra
14 **MU 'How to' day** at 'St. Silas' Church Hall, Crystal Brook.
22 -23 **Clergy Conference**, Camp Willochra
24 **Synod** at Camp Willochra
26 **Diocesan Council** - Church Office, Gladstone

April

- 2 **Holy Week** begins
6 **Good Friday**
8 **Easter Day**

May

- 5 - 6 **Synod** - Copper Coast
14-19 **Eco Spirituality** at Willow Springs Station - "God of Creeks, God of Gums, God of Sky"
17 **ABM Mission Day**, 10.30 am at the Cathedral, Pt. Pirie

Please contact Church Office for further details - 08 8662 2249

The Diocese of Willochra is a safe place for all. If you have a complaint or question about sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour please contact the Director of Professional Standards:

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THE WILLOCHRAN

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Israel – Jordan Trip 2012 continues

We also saw the evidence of the many conflicts over the centuries, with perhaps the most stunning to our 2012 eyes being the huge, ugly and seemingly never-ending wall which divides the city of Jerusalem and segregates the Palestinians. For those of us who tackled the Sunday afternoon walk around the Old City of Jerusalem the memories come flooding back of narrow streets and alleys, tiny crowded shops, the Western Wall, the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock, the Jewish, Christian, Armenian and Muslim quarters, which make it a vibrant, wonderful and politically complex city.

Each day's journey started with prayers from Fr Michael and in Israel, George read a Gospel passage, in most cases those chosen were pertinent to the day's intended visits. A Sunday Eucharist was celebrated in our Tel Aviv hotel and in the evenings in other Israeli locations we gathered for Evening Prayer, a fitting conclusion to each rich day. During our Sunday in Jerusalem we attended the morning Eucharist in St George's Cathedral, conducted in Arabic and English, with some good hymns to sing and a fine sermon from the Bishop of Rochester in the UK. On Monday 16 January, the eight of us who went on to Jordan next day, bid farewell to the six flying out after the Israeli leg of the trip.

Will we ever forget visiting the beautiful churches generally set in peaceful gardens in the most sacred sites? Or of volunteering to read appropriate passages of scripture in the places where it is considered that their words were first uttered or the events occurred? For me, reading The Beatitudes by the Church of that name as we gazed over the mill-pond calm of the Sea of Galilee will never leave my mind. We saw the famed relic of the 2000 year old "Jesus Boat"; we sailed on the sea itself and when the boat's engines were stopped listened to the water gently lapping the sides.

We visited so many places of deep significance to the Christian faith, always leaving further enriched and uplifted. The Golan Heights, the Dead Sea, Masada; Qumran, the discovery site of the Dead Scrolls; the Israel Museum and Yad Vashem - the Holocaust Memorial - the list goes on. Sandra Bryson will never forget her birthday when we stopped in a town called Ilabonun, to enjoy some delicious cake served by the owners of a tiny shop. Memories are made of this.

We were generally fortunate in the weather or in avoiding the large crowds which even in the cold of the Israeli winter, thronged many places, travelling in fleets of ultra-modern buses. Aided by our guide's inside knowledge, we were well ahead of the expected arrival of three hundred Polish pilgrims when we visited the dimly lit and mysterious Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We walked the Via Dolorosa in pouring rain, feeling that it matched the mood of following Jesus' walk towards His Crucifixion.



Michael, Mary and Geraldine camel riding at Wadi Rum.

In Jordan we were like excited children when it began to snow as we left the stark beauty of Petra and Fr Michael is still up in the air about his ride on a camel in the desert setting of Wadi Rum. There is so much more I could write, but precluded by space this overview will have to suffice. Believe me if you ever have the slightest chance to make a similar trip, ever, grab it with heart and hands. You will never be the same.

Mary Woollacott BURRA



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem



George, our guide, serving the birthday 'Kanafa' to Helen, Sandra and Libby, with the shop owners behind.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...!!

We have navigated our way through a challenging year as far as our finances go. We have no worries debt-wise or not being able to pay our way, but a couple of the ministries we support have cost us more than we budgeted for in this past 12 months. Also, falling interest rates (while being good news for home buyers and mortgage holders) have been a negative for the Diocese which is an investor. The Stock Market, as everyone knows, has had a forgettable year.

Our costs in 2012 will be substantial. We will be funding an MDO (Prue O'Donovan) from Day One, and the absence of a Bishop doesn't mean a lot of relief for the See Fund, as there are still quite substantial costs involved in searching for a new person in purple.

Another area which fell well short of expectation in 2011 is that of Gifts - whether it be to Home Missions, Ministry Training, The See (through the Friends) or to our mission agencies generally. Some of this we attribute to Bishop Garry's departure... but only some.

I know that we all face huge and relentless calls on our generosity, from both church and secular sources. However, I make this appeal to all of you who care about the Diocese and its long-term future, to remember the Diocese when making provision for this coming year. This can be through bequests, regular electronic giving, one-off donations, any way you like.



Above: The successful 2011 initiative, the Mission to Seafarers Ministry at Pt Giles, York Peninsular led to this shipboard gathering.

We have had one generous bequest which will fund the Ministry in Spirituality for the foreseeable future, but there are many other avenues which need on-going help as rural congregations struggle to pay stipends and support ministry at the local level. Training and education for clergy and lay leaders continues to be vital. In a Diocese like ours where distance is a tyranny, on-line learning is emerging as the way of the future, but it, like all else, costs.

So - thank you for all the support we have received. Please pray for the work of the Diocese in 2012 as we work on Budgets to service our various ministries in future. May you all enjoy the Fruits of the Spirit in your lives for the months to come.

Blessings – Michael Ford,
Diocesan Treasurer

Making the Faith/Work Connection

Featuring people from the Diocese sharing their views on the connection between faith and life.



Wendy Marling worships in the ministering community of St John's Auburn with her husband Tom. Dorothy Thorpe was privileged to spend a morning talking to Wendy about her faith and her life.

Wendy, I know you have always been a faithful Christian and I know your sister Sally was a Licensed Lay Minister at Edithburgh, and another sister Sue has just been ordained to the priesthood in Adelaide. Is there something in your upbringing that influenced all of you in the faith?

Well, Sue's twin sister Judith is also a church-goer but we do have another sister who isn't a church-goer, but has faith. My mother and aunty were keen church-goers and cousin Poppy was a bellringer. I was born in London in July 1939. The Second World War started in September 1939 and my mother brought me to her home village in a small farming community in Wiltshire. My parents never reunited but I visited my father and his new wife every year for two weeks in London. Ours was a Church of England village, with no Roman Catholics or cinema! Our life basically revolved around the church. I went to Sunday School from a very early age in a little thatched cottage opposite the church. Grandma had a picture of Jesus, with someone praying to him in her bedroom and I carry that image of his kind face with me. When I went to high school nearby we had a small service at assembly. Even when I did move away, about 20 miles, to be a nanny in a manor house, the church was next door and we'd go there through a gate in the wall to take our place in the family pew. Faith was never questioned at all; it was integral to our life.

I know you were a WREN and that Tom was in the Fleet Air Arm. What can you tell me about those times?

I joined the WRENS almost by chance. I was only seventeen when I was waiting outside the Navy recruiting office for a friend who didn't turn up. An officer came out several times to encourage me to come inside and take a look. I must have left my name and address because recruiting material came through the post and the joining age had been reduced to 17½. I thought 'why not'. It might have been fate but I think it was God, because then I met Tom. I was only a WREN for two years because I had to resign after I married Tom. *(Dorothy: There's not room here to tell the romantic story of how*

Tom swept her to an exchange of vows in Scotland). Of course, the Navy had regular church services. *(Dorothy: I know Tom's favourite hymn is 'For those in peril on the sea')*. When we were posted to Somerset, I would go off sometimes to little churches in the neighbourhood. The padre would come to the married quarters and we'd have services in our home with half a dozen mums and their children. Our son Lee was baptised on the station where Tom was serving. We lived at various bases around England and Scotland and even for a while in Singapore. From Singapore we came back to Suffolk, to the beautiful 'Constable country'.

And then you migrated?

Yes, in January 1971. A new country and a new baby. Three of our children were born in the UK and one in Australia. I did not want to come while my father was still alive, but I agreed to come just for two years. It was not meant to be. We settled down with a house, work and children doing well in school, and my mother and sisters followed us. We lived in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and sometimes attended St Augustine's at Para Hills, but mostly St Luke's, Modbury. The twins started going to Holy Trinity in Adelaide, so I went on occasions with them.

Tell me about your faith.

I have never had doubts and feel that I have a most enormous faith. God is my constant companion and I feel his closeness. My favourite Bible verse is John 10.27: *My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.* Even when I have had spells when I haven't regularly attended church, I have still had faith in God. There have been several occasions when I have had very personal encounters with God in the Spirit, when I have felt his loving physical presence and heard his voice. These spiritual times have certainly reassured me.

Wendy, I know you are ill now. I suppose that reassurance is a comfort in your illness.

The Lord feels my pain and I know he has sympathy and love for me. The human race is not perfect and our bodies are not perfect. I know that suffering is part of the scheme of things, and one of the mysteries we have to work out for ourselves. His presence is a great assurance to me.

I do enjoy going to church. We have been worshipping at St John's since we moved to Auburn 13 years ago. I love talking and hearing about Jesus. I feel that if you give the Father an inch he gives you a mile. If I get up early to go to church, I can feel more confident that I can ask for blessings for my family.

My faith is fed by the Holy Spirit. I'm not a Mother Teresa, so I sometimes ask what I have done to deserve such blessings. I try to be nice to others, but I am not always so. I have given my children my all, but I haven't been out in society helping the homeless. I do admire organisations like the Salvation Army because my heart goes out to the homeless and I support charities like that as much as I can. The Lord has never given up on me even though my body is tired. I am very fortunate to be loved and supported by a cheerful, positive and helpful husband.

A Lucky Few People!

A lucky few people have been appointed by the Diocesan Council to the Diocese of Willochra Centenary Committee to coordinate celebrations in 2015. What a long way off! But not too soon to start thinking about how we would like to celebrate.

The small committee, representing various parts of the Diocese, has met only once but we formulated our own vision statement which is: *To celebrate in 2015 the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Diocese of Willochra with a few focused events done well, and local level activities throughout the year, involving as many people as possible in order to foster belonging to the Diocese and owning its mission.*

So we set about preparing a possible, manageable program for the year. The only things we know for sure are these: Mary Woollacott of Burra has been appointed as editor of the diocesan history which will be published for the occasion; and everyone needs to keep free the last weekend in July 2015 for a grand occasion because 100 years ago on the same weekend Bishop Gilbert White was installed as our first bishop. That's our birthday! Other suitable things are being investigated and we'll keep you posted.

Dorothy Thorpe, Chairman

Blessing the fleece, but where is the sheep?

On Sunday 25th September we travelled to the shearing shed on "Gum Hill" farm. Originally the home of Ian Rodgers and his parents, it is now being farmed by Chris and Di Watson and sons. They all did a great job clearing out the shed and surrounds and after some rousing around to find a suitable (live) sheep for the shearing process we all watched Ian shear it.

Reta Coffey had brought her spinning wheel, so as soon as she had combed out a handful, she started spinning the wool.

Apparently the story of the live sheep was that Chris and Di had shorn all their sheep, but had one left for the Blessing of the Fleece. The sheep had other ideas and led Chris a merry dance through the scrub. He fell off the motor bike and needed stitches in his elbow. The sheep was eventually caught and yarded. Next morning they went out only to find it dead (the sheep!) After a ring around the neighbours, John Harris and Jaydn arrived with two fine looking sheep, full wool, ready for the ceremony!

Father Peter Linn conducted the service and Ruth Buxton gave an amazing explanation on the world of sheep, their characters and habits, comparing the sheep to the teachings she had selected for the day.

Thanks go to the Watson's, Peter, Ruth and Reta for a happy and memorable Sunday.

**Wendy Treloar,
Eyre Ways - Dec 2011**

Flip, Flip, Hooray!

Waste not, want not... what better way to use those last few eggs than by serving pancakes drizzled in lemon juice and dusted with sugar?

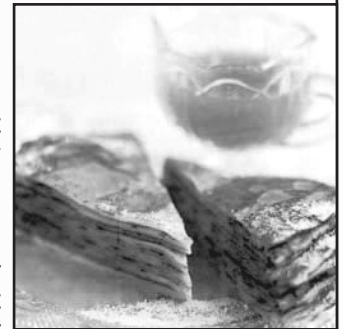
A truly historic treat...pancakes could be bought in Roman Britain from vendors in market squares; they also made an appearance in cookery books as early as the 1400s. The first pancake race in Britain was held in 1445 in the Buckinghamshire town of Olney and continues to this day, each Shrove Tuesday. Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras (as it is known in France, meaning 'fat Tuesday') was a time of feasting for Christians, prior to the 40 days of Lent.

Pancakes were the perfect way to use up ingredients such as flour, sugar and eggs. The word 'shrove' stems from the old English word 'shrive', meaning to 'confess all sins' - the Christian practice just before Lent.

From such beginnings the pancake has inspired many a cook. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the impressive 'quire of paper' (because the pancakes were paper thin and piled high) had cream added to the batter. They were then served with butter and sugar and cut into cake-like slices.

Other decadent dishes include crepes Suzette, set alight with brandy, or 'Pancakes Barbara', with whipped cream, ice-cream, blanched walnuts and hot chocolate sauce. For a 'simpler way to enjoy your pancakes, just add grated lemon or orange rind to the batter, or serve with golden syrup or jam. For a savoury twist, wrap them around haddock and prawns cooked in a creamy sauce. Remember, pancakes will keep in the fridge for several days.

From the 'Burra Barrow' - Dec, Jan, Feb 2011



PRACTICAL HELP FOR STOCKPORT

Early in December, 2010 without any warning, the skies opened and the normally almost dry Gilbert River which runs through Riverton, Stockport and Hamley Bridge, broke its banks in the low-lying areas of Stockport and caused severe flooding in a number of homes.

In the scheme of things in Australia in December and January, this disaster went almost unnoticed. To the small community, it was however, heartbreaking. Many of the homes are old restored cottages and they were badly affected. To begin with, many insurers stated that the homes were not covered for flood, but eventually some conceded that the flooding was storm related and have "paid up".

Nine months later, many residents are still living in caravans or camping in partly-restored homes and the whole town wore a weary and despondent look.

The Australian Mothers' Union gave \$1000 from its disaster fund to help people in the town. The M.U. Executive decided that they would help in a practical way by assisting with the payment of utility bills such as electricity and water, because a number of people had received abnormally high accounts for these.

A donation of \$500 came from our local State M.P. and Bishop Garry had some funds from another source which he made available. In all the Mothers' Union was able to arrange for a number of residents to receive \$800 to assist with their expenses.



Damage from Cyclone Yasi in Queensland

From "Mia Mia"- Summer 2011, used with permission.

The Willochran - 4th Series, No 87, February 2012

.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....



Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country, your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you....So Abram went as the Lord had told him..."

Noah was told to build a boat in the middle of dry land, Moses was sent on a 40 year trek through the desert, some Eastern Sages journey a long way to find a child, and Joseph,

Mary with their infant were told to flee from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape the wrath of a jealous ruler. God seems many times to extract us from a comfortable, familiar place to something outside our comfort zone!

From a personal perspective, moving from a lovely parish with a familiar routine and a supportive community to a different kind of living style and a whole new ministry, is, perhaps something like the people in the biblical stories who find themselves uprooted and facing new challenges in the unknown.



Many people have asked what an MDO does and it is a difficult question to answer. There are certain things expected such as helping to organise education events, ministry and clergy conferences, ministry days, post ordination training, clergy enhancement, local priest support and training, as well as resourcing congregations, parishes and ministry districts, leading vacancy and other consultations, supporting congregational, parish and ministry district leaders, lay and clergy, taking part in the production of the Willochran and being available at Church Office in Gladstone.



Each person has his or her own style, talents, strengths and perceptions so the MDO position will take shape, over time, according to the person in the position. Whilst sitting outside looking in, one has dreams and visions as to how things might be, but the reality comes once the work begins!

I believe the most important aspect is simply to be available so that your concerns are heard and that we may be able to take steps to support your faith communities. It will be important for the MDO to visit as many areas as possible to get to know people and to acquire a better understanding of the dynamics of the places in which you minister and live.

I welcome an invitation to come to your area to look, to listen to learn, and to converse, that the best and most appropriate resourcing and strategic planning possible is activated.



Prue O'Donovan,
the new MDO
(Ministry Development Officer)
introduces herself and her role!

As Archdeacon of Flinders I continue to fulfil this role and as a priest, I am available to undertake priestly ministry. The role of MDO looks dauntingly huge, but the MDO is only one person. We are, however, all part of the Body of Christ and as such we all work together to ensure the Jesus story continues to be told in the most effect way and we all work together to discover the best ways to connect with God and to ensure we support others in their search for a connectedness with God. Growth and success in the truest faith sense can only be accomplished when the people of faith, the Body of Christ work and pray together.

God may ask much of us, but God also says to all of us:

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off'; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

(Isaiah 41:8-10)



.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....ISSUES.....

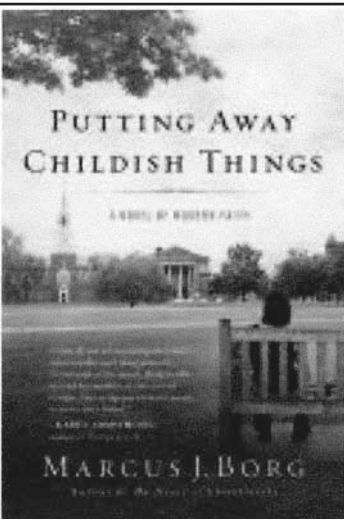
BOOK REVIEW

“Putting away Childish Things: A tale of modern faith”

by *Marcus J. Borg*

Reading a book based around theology is a departure from my usual choices. I happened to pick up a copy, read the blurb on the back and decided that it might be interesting. I downloaded “Putting away Childish Things” into my Kindle electronic reader and from the moment I began clicking over the pages I was hooked.

Perhaps it was the fact that the theological matter is cleverly incorporated into a novel with a subtly tantalising touch of romance, interesting human nature and that the characterisation of the main protagonists is totally believable.



A high-profile American Biblical scholar, Marcus Borg has written a number of theological books, but this particular title is his first foray into fiction. The book's theology which is basically liberal, really made me sit up and think and is cleverly woven into the plot. I even noted some of the quotes as they spoke to me quite deeply.

For example:

“Listen to your life. Listen to what happens to you because it is through what happens to you that God speaks ...It's in the language that's not always easy to decipher, but it's there, powerfully, memorably, unforgettably.”

The main character Kate Riley, a practising Episcopalian, is a successful and popular lecturer in religion at a liberal arts college in a small mid-western town in the USA. As the story unfolds, her generally comfortable and pleasant life is challenged in various ways, with her published books being described by some as ‘too Christian’ while on the other hand, parents and students of a fundamentalist persuasion petitioned for her removal. The unravelling developments and her crisis of faith are also seen through the eyes of Kate's close friends, colleagues and students, one of whom who has her previously set ways of thinking seriously challenged and changed. For any reader the same outcome is a possibility.

Add to all this, reminiscences concerning an affair of the heart from years back with the promise of a possible re-kindling (no pun intended!) of that relationship and this book ticked all the boxes for me. More of the same please.

Mary Woollacott, Burra

Ministry of Spirituality

• *A Lenten Retreat – 2 to 4 March 2012* •

**Living through Saturday:
Oh when will Sunday come?**

As we enter the season of Lent, why not come and spend a weekend in beautiful Burra? You are invited to experience a part of Easter, hinted at in our Lenten discipline, but largely overlooked - the period between the pain of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day.

Retreat Leader – Sister Sandra Sears CSBC

Contact the Administrator, the Ven. Michael Hillier (see details below) for a brochure or further information.

• *Courses* •

The Spiral of Prayer - Learning to pray and going deeper	5 sessions
Meditation	6 sessions
The Art of Sacred Reading	4 sessions
The Palestine of Jesus	4 sessions

• *New Website* •

The Ministry of Spirituality now has its own website.
www.bushspirituality.org.au

• *Other possibilities* •

Retreats, Quiet Days, Workshops, Spiritual Direction.
For further information contact:

The Ven. Michael Hillier
PO Box 47, Burra, 5417

08 8892 2313, 0458 508 628 and stmaryburra@bigpond.com

ECO – SPIRITUALITY 2012

Celebrating 20 years of the ministry

May 14 - 19 Willow Springs Station	God of Creeks, God of Gums, God of Sky	Mrs Dianne Price assisted by Rev'd David Amery
June 18 - 23 Moolooloo Station	God of Mines, God of Pines	Sr Angela Moloney
July 23 -28 Angepena Station	In the land of the Adnyamathanha	Fr Tom Gleeson
Aug 26 - Sept 2 Flinders Ranges	Spring Tour	(Not Ecospirituality)
Oct 8 -13 Gum Creek Station	God of Creation and first life.	Rev'd Ali Wurm

The cost of all programmes will be \$545 except Angepena (\$635)

For further details; see Michael Hillier's details above or

Visit the Diocesan website: www.diowillochra.org.au

or contact Terry Krieg (08 8682 1571, 0428 834 141,
email: patezl@yahoo.com)

Around the traps....

"Wonder-Filled Willochra". All Christian writers and photographers are invited to send original prayers and photos (preferably electronically) to The Rev'd Flo Walters at fwalters2@bigpond.com or PO Box 44, Owen SA 5460.

With due acknowledgement Flo wants to use your prayers and photos in a book called "Wonder-Filled Willochra".

The Next 'How To' Day - for MU members and friends will be held on **Wednesday 14th March at St. Silas' Church** Hall, Brandis Street, Crystal Brook. It promises to be an interesting day with information on MU at work, along with a Guest Speaker from the Pt Pirie Police speaking on **Internet and Phone Scams and Credit Card Fraud**. The day begins with Morning Tea at 10.00 am. Just bring your own lunch and enjoy this day.

The Rev'd Phillip Hanlin [Leigh Creek] suffered a heart attack on Christmas Eve, Fortunately there was little damage to his heart and he is recovering well.

Anglican WebsiteA new Anglican website was launched on Sunday 11th September 2011 in St Thomas Church. The address is www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au/



The creator and webmaster is Cathie Smith from St Matthew's, Poonindie.

The site contains photos and information on the three churches in the parish - St Mathias at Lake Wangary, St Thomas in Pt Lincoln, and St Matthew in

Poonindie; a photo gallery of people and events; service times; a 'what we offer' page; reflections; weekly pew sheets; links with the Willochra Diocese and other local sites.

You are invited to visit us on your computer and respond with questions and comments. We will be in touch with you as appropriate.

Recent deaths - It is sad to note the recent deaths of **The Rev'd Gordon Hewitson, Glad Smith, Kath May and Ann Sibly**. Gordon served in this Diocese in the Parishes of Kadina and Whyalla. He died on 18th December in Perth, where he had been living with his son, John. A Memorial service was held for him in Adelaide in January. Glad Smith died in December 2011 at Streaky Bay. She was the wife of the late Rev'd Jim Smith, who was priest at Streaky Bay in the late 1950's and in the 1960's. Kath May, wife of the Rev'd Barry May, died in late November. Barry served as priest at Burra. Ann Sibly, the wife of the Rev'd Geoff Sibly, died in Canberra. He was parish priest at Burra in the 1960's.

Retiring - **The Rev'd Gunnar Rippon**, Priest to the Wakefield Ministry District has announced his retirement from active ministry, to take effect after Easter. We wish him and his wife, Margie, all the best for the future. Also retiring is the **Rev'd Flo Walters**, part time priest of the Wakefield Ministry District, based at Balaklava. Our best wishes for the future to Flo and her husband, Geoff.

Brother Gregory Stephens

SSM was inducted as Deacon in Charge of the Parish of Central Yorke Peninsula on Tuesday, 29th November, in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Maitland. We wish him God's blessing in this new beginning.

Returning to the Diocese - Welcome to the Rev'd Mark and Sandy Evans, who served at Leigh Creek before moving to Kangaroo Island, and who are currently doing locum duties at Coober Pedy.

New Cathedral "Outlook"- The congregation of SS Peter & Paul has recently been greeted with 100 new church chairs, fully padded and very comfortable indeed! [Preachers beware!] To go with the new chairs there has been a re-configuration of seating with the altar from the Lady Chapel being brought into the 'body' of the Cathedral with the chairs being arranged in semi circles.



The chairs were purchased through Alloyfold, a division of Pathway Charitable Group, that works with unemployed people. The process from order to delivery ran very smoothly indeed and Matt Le Breton from Alloyfold is to be congratulated on the excellent service provided. A number of chairs were donated by members of the Cathedral congregation. The names of those given 'In Memory' will be recorded on a plaque that will be placed in the Memorial Chapel.

On the move - The Rev'd David McDougall, who has been Parish Priest at Port Augusta/Quorn is moving to the Copper Coast to become Priest in Charge. We wish David, his wife, Andrea and their family all the best for the move.

Broken Bones - Now what was the Rev'd Peter Linn doing to break his wrist? Also the Rev'd Thomas Karama has broken his arm playing basketball! We wish them both a speedy recovery!

