



## Prayer one 6.17-6.27pm

The Annual General Meeting of the AMPJPs Ltd, **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
Pullman & Mercure - Albert Park, (Lake Room).

*Prayer follows the welcome of people to the AGM and Acknowledgement of Country. After this prayer time the AGM continues for 30min approx. and after a short break, a sit-down dinner.*

*The 35 participants will be seated seven at each of the five round tables. A small table will already be in front of the lectern. The table will be covered with a light green cloth with a pascal candle and a large bowl (half-filled with water) in the centre of the table. A blue cloth flows from under the bowl to the front of the table (symbolic of flowing water).*

### **Leader:**

I light our Easter candle as a reminder of our oneness with Christ and each other through baptism.

### **Leader:**

Loving God

You have called us here from across this wide land.

We remember that you originally called each of us to life and nurtured us to maturity

We remember that you drew us to your son and his body – the church.

We remember that you called us to live as Jesus' disciples as His holy people.

We remember that you called us to put on the yoke of leadership within your people.

We pray that we be mindful of your presence with us tonight and tomorrow:

may we be attentive to the voice of your Spirit;

may we be open to your challenge; and

may we be generous in our response.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

### **All: Amen**

### **Gospel**

A reading from the Gospel of John (3: 1-8)

Now there was a Pharisees named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

He came to Jesus by night and said to him,

“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;

for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old?

Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you,

‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**A reflection from Pope Francis**

*“At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life  
... reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus’ earthly life:*

*his hidden life,*

*his life in community,*

*his closeness to the outcast,*

*his poverty*

*and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love”*

*... “Do not be afraid of holiness.*

*It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy.*

*On the contrary,*

*you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you,*

*and you will be faithful to your deepest self.”*

(Pope Francis *Gaudete et Exsultate*: On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World #20 and 32)

**Leader:**

I invite you to come to the water in the bowl at the base of our Easter candle and engage with the water as a connection with your baptism – for instance you may want to feel the water, wash your hands or to use it to bless yourself.

During this time, we will listen to the hymn:

Waters of Life (5.03 minutes), © Monica Brown used with permission

**Final prayer** (adapted from Eph. 4:4-6)

**All: Lord, you have formed us as one body and one Spirit,  
Together we acclaim our unity with you and each other:  
one hope;  
one Lord;  
one faith;  
one baptism;  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all  
and through all  
and in all.  
Amen**



## Prayer two 12.30-12.45pm

The Annual Canonical Stewards Forum, **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
Pullman & Mercure - Albert Park (Lake Room).

*Prayer follows two input and discussion sessions with a morning tea between each. The topics being explored are: reflection on our role as leaders and influencers in the Church in Australia and beyond in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and consideration of the value of the AMPJP as a support and resource to canonical stewards and their PJP's. After this prayer time there will be a 60min lunch followed by an afternoon session.*

*The 35 participants will be seated seven at each of the five round tables. The small prayer focus table (from prayer one) will be in front of the lectern.*

**Leader:** We begin this time of prayer with the words of Pope Francis in *Gaudete et Exsultate*:

*“Yet we simply cannot do without the silence of prolonged prayer,  
which enables us better to perceive God’s language,  
to interpret the real meaning of the inspirations we believe we have received,  
to calm our anxieties  
and to see the whole of our existence afresh in his own light.” (#171)*

*“Only if we are prepared to listen,  
do we have the freedom to set aside our own partial or insufficient ideas,  
our usual habits and ways of seeing things.  
In this way, we become truly open to accepting a call  
that can shatter our security,  
but lead us to a better life.” (#172)*

Mindful of these words we start with a period of reflection using the song Listen (4.53min). This is not a time to wrestle with ideas and our plans from the morning sessions. It is a time to find an internal place of stillness where we can meet God and hear God’s voice.

### **Scripture**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor 12:12-27)

For just as the body is one and has many members,  
and all the members of the body,  
though many, are one body,  
so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body  
- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -  
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.  
If the foot were to say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”  
that would not make it any less a part of the body.  
And if the ear were to say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,”  
that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye,  
where would the hearing be?  
If the whole body were hearing,  
where would the sense of smell be?  
But as it is, God arranged the members in the body,  
each one of them, as he chose.

If they were a single member, where would the body be?  
As it is, there are many members, yet one body.  
The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you!"  
nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you!"

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,  
and those members of the body that we think less honourable  
we clothe with greater honour,  
and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;  
whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,  
that there may be no dissension within the body,  
but the members may have the same care for one another.  
If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;  
if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ  
and individually members of it.

The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: In *Gaudete et Exsultate*: Pope Francis invites us to live five great expressions of love for God and neighbour:

**Leader**

**Reader**

1. PERSEVERANCE, PATIENCE AND  
MEEKNESS

*"...solid grounding in the God who loves and  
sustains us." (#112)*

*"Humiliation makes you resemble Jesus;  
it is an unavoidable aspect of the imitation of  
Christ." (#118)*

Lord, you have demonstrated perseverance,  
patience and meekness towards your  
appointed leaders from your Apostle's  
through to us gathered here today.

We pray that we may be open to receive your  
grace so that we may also demonstrate  
perseverance, patience and meekness  
towards those we work with and those for  
whom we are responsible.

Holy Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer**

## 2. JOY AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR

*“If we allow the Lord to draw us out of our shell and change our lives, then we can do as Saint Paul tells us: “Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!” (#122)*

Lord, your love for others is intoxicating – characterised by joy and a sense of humour. We ask that we be open to receive your grace and so share your joy and sense of humour with those we work with and those for whom we are responsible.

Holy Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer**

## 3. BOLDNESS AND PASSION

*“We need the Spirit’s prompting, lest we be paralysed by fear and excessive caution, lest we grow used to keeping within safe bounds.” (#133)*

*“Unafraid of the fringes,  
he himself became a fringe*

*So if we dare to go to the fringes,  
we will find him there;  
indeed, he is already there.” (#135)*

Lord, you were moved by those who were lost or suffering injustice. We ask that we be open to receive your grace that we may be bold and passionate in our response to those most in need.

Holy Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer**

#### 4. IN COMMUNITY

*“A community that cherishes  
the little details of love,  
whose members care for one another  
and create an open and  
evangelizing environment,  
is a place where the risen Lord is present,  
sanctifying it  
in accordance with the Father’s plan.” (#145)*

Lord, you gathered individuals and formed them  
as a community of faith and action.

We ask that we be open to receive your grace  
so that we may build up and work within our  
communities.

Holy Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer**

#### 5. IN CONSTANT PRAYER

*“...holiness consists in a habitual openness  
to the transcendent,  
expressed in prayer and adoration.” (#147)*

Lord, you sought out times of quiet and prayer.

We ask that we be open to receive your grace  
so that we may also be persons and leadership  
teams that are nourished by constant prayer.

Holy Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, we are your body,  
inseparable from each other  
and inseparable from you.  
We live in the name of,

**All: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen**



### Prayer three 3.10-3.30pm

The Annual Canonical Stewards Forum, **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
Pullman & Mercure - Albert Park, (Lake Room).

*Prayer follows an after-lunch discussion session on the purpose of the AMPJP and whether our Strategic Plan has the right priorities. This prayer is the last item on the program and will have as a focus going back to our organisations (we are not commissioned by this group but conscious that we each came with and return to our own mission).*

*The 35 participants will be seated seven at each of the five round tables. The small prayer focus table (from prayer one) will be in front of the lectern. Around the large Easter candle will be 12 smaller candles with the same design as the Easter Candle (one for each PJP).*

Leader: Holy Lord,  
Over these past days we have gathered in your name  
to reflect upon your call that we live wholly for you:  
as baptised disciples,  
as leaders within PJPs and  
as members of the AMPJP.  
May we take seriously your mission to transform the world  
and herald a new creation of:  
love and fellowship;  
justice and peace;  
freedom and wholeness; and  
solidarity and sharing.

**All: We thank you for calling us and gifting us for mission.  
Guide us and renew us as we seek to share your holiness with others.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen**

In *Gaudete et Exsultate*: Pope Francis says:

*“Still, he asks us to examine what is within us  
– our desires, anxieties, fears and questions –  
and what takes place all around us  
– “the signs of the times” –  
and thus to recognise the paths that lead to complete freedom.” (#168)*

*“God asks everything of us,  
yet he also gives everything to us.  
He does not want to enter our lives to cripple or diminish them,  
but to bring them to fulfilment.” (#175)*

Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (5:14-16)

“You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,  
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

I invite you to reflect on these readings as we listen to the song: *Infinitely More* (3.32min) ©  
Monica Brown used with permission

*Infinitely more than we could dream or imagine, is the power of your grace at work in us.  
O may the grace of your Spirit fire our hearts anew. Come Holy Spirit breath of our lives.*

*As with one heart, bearing many faces, we are called and sent to be the all-embracing love  
of our God, serving with compassion all those in need, believing in the mystery of Christ at  
work in us.*

*United here in God’s loving Spirit, we dare to walk on paths unknown as fire breaks open  
seeds of new life, empowered by God’s grace we open our hearts to the movement of  
God’s Spirit. We journey in hope.*

Leader: I invite the Member representatives of each of the gathered PJPs to come to the  
table and light a candle and take it back to stand with the other people from your  
PJP.

Leader: That we may be a contemporary, encouraging example of Christ’s mission at work in  
the world;

**All: Lord, let your light shine in us.**

Leader: That we may actively enable the co-responsibility of laity and clergy for the life of the  
Church and its ministries;

**All: Lord, let your light shine in us**

Leader: That we may facilitate collegial interaction between Canonical Stewards within our  
PJP;

**All: Lord, let your light shine in us**

Leader: That we may communicate and cooperate with the Australian Catholic Bishops  
Conference, Catholic Religious Australia, their respective members and other  
Catholic entities in advancing the Reign of God;



**All: Lord, let your light shine in us**

Leader: That we may support other members of the AMPJP;

**All: Lord, let your light shine in us**

Leader: That we may promote and proclaim Catholic identity as an integral part of our ministries.

**All: Lord, let your light shine in us**

Blessing and Sending Forth

Leader:

Called and chosen we are sent to be Missionary Disciples to live the holiness to which we are called. As we leave this place we draw on the inspiration of the life and work of Saint Oscar Romero *in the reflection so much associated with him:*

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.*

*The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*We cannot do everything,*

*and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.*

*This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,*

*a step along the way,*

*an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results,*

*but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders;*

*ministers, not messiahs.*

*We are prophets of a future not our own.*

**All: And may the blessing of God, the Creator and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down on us and remain with us forever. Amen.**

**All: Let us go in peace, to continue the work God has begun in us.**