

Friday, 11 August 2023
The Feast of St. Clare.

Dear Parishioners,

Again, it seems a while since I last wrote. I apologise but will try not to make too many excuses, although, I must admit that moving house has taken a fair amount of energy, both physical and mental!

Chris and I are now joyfully in our new home in Springdale Beach and loving it. I thank Revd Sue Lodge-Calvert who blessed it and everyone who came to support and 'warm' the house on a very cold, wet and windy Sunday in June!

I hope you will be please to hear that the Rectory has now been successfully rented to a family of five.

As many of you are aware, I will be away for several weeks, partly annual leave and partly Franciscan business, for which I have obtained "Study Leave".

I will be leaving Denmark on Monday, August 14th, and fly to Europe on the evening of the 15th. I will be in England from August 25th until I fly out from Heathrow on September 27th. The Franciscan InterProvincial Third Order Chapter (IPTOC) meets from September 2nd until the 13th, but besides that, I will be spending time between my three UK siblings and catching up with friends, including a school reunion. It is a scary thought that it is now 50 years since I saw many of them!

I was reflecting the other day that it is almost exactly 50 years since I emigrated to Australia. That flight took 30 hours and we had three stops between London and Perth. This time it will take about 17 hours and there will be no stops on the way! How things change.

As you can probably tell, I am getting very excited, but trying desperately to get everything done and in place before I leave.

While I am away, Revd Sue Lodge-Calvert will cover most services for me, with the LLMs covering the rest. So please, rest assured that it will be business as usual in the parish while I am away.

The Parish phone and email will be monitored at all times. Please remember the new number: 0400 101 166.

I am aware that there are many parishioners who have been or continue to be unwell at this time. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers while I am away.

I leave you with this prayer by Fr. Thomas Keating and the thoughts which follow:

I welcome everything that comes to me today, because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen.

It is a prayer that can be done in a moment, in a breath. It's about "Letting Go".

When we welcome "what is" in our life, it doesn't mean that we don't want or need change or growth. It means that we accept what comes our way and invite God into it. In God's presence we bring to God our needs, our desires, our thoughts, our emotions, and our circumstances. Instead of fighting these things and those around us, we welcome them and God in them so that WE can be transformed as we consent to God's presence in all areas of our lives. To fight against our reality, to demand and to grasp onto our desires, is one way of denying that God alone is our Source of Life, that God is our Source for Love and Power.

When we "cling" to our needs and our desires or demands that "what is" be different we are attempting to control. When we "let go" and meet God in our reality, then we actually do become free and experience God's presence – which does heal, provide our needs, transforms us
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I hope that this is helpful to some of you. I know that some are struggling with health issues and also matters of faith and spirituality. A little mantra that I have held on to through thick and thin times: God loves us for who we are, who God created us to be. While God always seeks the best for us, for us to grow into our full potential, we will always be acceptable in God's sight.

So, until I return, be well, know that you are loved.

Peace and all good wishes, with my prayers.

Sally

Revd Sally Buckley tssf
Parish Priest