



# THE MAGDALENE

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

From the Desk of Fr. Neil...

## Reconciliation.

There seems to always be a steady stream of books coming out, written by or about people who have had what have come to be called "Near Death Experiences." Individuals have been in serious car accidents, which have left them unconscious, or they have been in a coma for a certain period of time and during that time, they have apparently been taken to heaven. Friends have loaned me the occasional book on this topic and I have read them with some interest. I have found that each person that I have read, or heard about, however, who has had this experience, has had a *different* experience. They have had some similarities as well, (i.e. a bright light, a feeling of happiness and peace). I really cannot say exactly what *is* happening to these people, but at the moment, I tend to still lean on the side of 'skeptical.' I'm not going to argue for my point of view on that subject here. Instead I would like to do what I think is the safer way to go and to discuss things about heaven that we are sure about or more clear about. To do that, we should always turn to scripture to see what God has said on the subject.

We know, for example, that heaven has enough room for us, for Jesus says in John's Gospel, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? We know that God has prepared a better place for us to live in for eternity, "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has



prepared for them a city."<sup>1</sup> We know that no one has been there, except Jesus. "No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man."<sup>2</sup> We know that we really have no idea how wonderful place heaven is, "But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him'"<sup>3</sup> And among other things, we know that we will never have sorrow or pain or sadness, and that we will be reconciled to all men in heaven, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."<sup>4</sup> I know that the passage I just quoted does not mention reconciliation, directly, but I believe it can be inferred from it. That is what I would like to write about here.

On earth, where there *is* pain and suffering from time to time, part of it is due to our refusal, inability, shortsightedness, or stubbornness that keeps us from being in perfect harmony with our fellow man. Whatever the reason, sin is at the root. We do live, for the most part, in harmony with others. The majority of people want to live peacefully with their neighbors. But we do, at times, fall out with someone. We fight with family members or friends. Or, we commit some sort of offence against someone. Maybe we are divorced. Many times we are able to reconcile. Sometimes we are not. Despite Scripture commanding "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 11:16

<sup>2</sup> John 3:13

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:9

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 21:4

as God in Christ forgave you,” we still fall far short to fulfilling this command. Why?

The Scriptures also tell us, “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” We have received *this* command as well. We, who once were alienated from God and were enemies with Him, have been reconciled – though undeservedly – by the once offered, full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Therefore, we have been tasked with the same work - reconciliation. But if part of our work in life as Christians is to bring reconciliation between God and man by sharing with people the Gospel message, doesn't it seem to make our job more difficult if we are not first reconciled with all men as well...proving we at least seek to fulfill our Lord's command and not be hypocritical?

I imagine in heaven we will see people who we didn't think we would see there. I believe also that many people might be surprised to see you and me make it in. Maybe. I don't know. But either way, the fact that *we* are there...and we are there with others whom we might have never been reconciled to embarrasses me to some degree.

I think the reconciliation in heaven will be one of great joy. I do not think it will be a time when we sit down and God will act as a mediator while we hash out our differences. Rather, I believe that the joy of heaven will remove any ill-will or harbored feelings of anger against anyone, and we will be freed from its bondage. C.S. Lewis, in his book *The Great Divorce* depicts heaven or the trip to heaven in one instance, where a couple who were married on earth is conversing. One is trying to convince the other person of their love for them. The other, the man, doesn't believe his wife. He pushes her away. She begs him to forgive her, though you get the

idea that she was not at fault in the relationship in the first place. But she asks forgiveness anyway. This is Lewis' idea an intermediate state I presume. I would see our arrival in heaven more as “in the twinkling of an eye” where we would be arriving forgiven by God on account of Christ, and we will already have forgotten or at least let go of past anger and resentment toward anyone else.

Isn't it strange, though, that we can't, each and every time, find the same strength to be reconciled with others here in this life? I know forgiveness is not easy. At times we can let things go. Many times we find it difficult. What is it about being face to face with someone, especially with those who we have had a falling out with, that makes the reconciliation process so difficult? I'm sorry to say I don't have the answers to these questions. Sin and pride are at the root of it, of course. What I do know, is when someone has done us wrong, we should first look to Christ, who when he did *no* wrong, was nailed to a cross. He forgave the very men who drove large steel spikes through His wrists. He went through that agony so that we could be reconciled to the Father....while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Second, we should be prayerful about why we are not reconciled with others. I don't think we have to run out and get all of this done at once. Reconciliation takes time. Verbal face to face forgiveness and reconciliation may never be possible in this life. But I think while we do have time, we should do what we can to work in the direction of at least forgiveness, if not full reconciliation. Only in heaven will we ever be fully reconciled with all men, because in heaven there will be more than just light and peace and joy. In the next life, there will be family, friends and even enemies...and yet we will be finally reconciled with all of them. Why not begin that process now, in this life?

# PARISH NEWS

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

St. Martha's Guild is pleased to announce our newest outreach to the local community.

During the summer, the Guild will be collecting items for Mary's Kitchen, a local group helping the needy and homeless in our area.



Toiletries and new or gently used towels are being collected for the homeless men, women and children who depend on Mary's Kitchen for help. Examples of needed toiletries are: shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, lotion etc.



Please drop off your contributions in the narthex. Bins are provided for your donations.

If you have any questions, please ask Eve or Violet. Thank you for your support for this wonderful outreach opportunity.

## ANGELS BASEBALL

Are you interested in attending an Angels Baseball game on Friday night, August 2<sup>nd</sup>?



Names are being gathered for those who are interested and can make a FIRM COMMITMENT to attend. We need 20 people in order to secure the discounted rate for tickets.

Please sign the clipboard in the narthex or give Father a call if you are interested. Tickets are \$22 each.

## PATRONAL BBQ

Get out your calendars and circle **Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** in red. This will be the date of our annual Patronal BBQ Celebration.



Each year we gather together on or near the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene to have a wonderful afternoon of food, fellowship and fun.

Entertainment for everyone is being planned. There will be games and activities for the children, along with a bounce house.

St. Mary Magdalene will provide the hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, and cold drinks. Parishioners are asked to bring their favorite dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex so that we will know how much meat to purchase.

Dress comfortably, bring your hats and don't forget your sunscreen, and you'll be ready for an afternoon of fun.

See you there!!

## FATHER'S DAY GIFT

On Father's Day, Geraldine Delafosse, member of our choir, presented a beautiful tribute to all of the fathers by singing "The Lord's Prayer" after the recessional hymn.



Thank you, Geraldine. Everyone was moved by your gift.

## **BROWN BAG LUNCH & SPEAKER**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, we will gather in the Parish Hall after the 10:00am Mass for a brown bag lunch and guest speaker.



Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information about the topic of the speaker. But be assured, you will have some good fellowship, lively discussions and much fun. Please, plan on attending this informative afternoon.

## **SUPPER CLUB**

*You're  
Invited*

Each month, a parishioner is invited to plan a "night out on the town" for their fellow churchgoers. This is a great way to get to know your church family in a casual atmosphere.

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm, the Supper Club host or hostess plans an excursion to a restaurant or an evening in their own home. You then set out a sign-up sheet in the narthex and make reservations if needed. Remember to bring your wallet because the evenings are "Dutch Treat."

Barbara Taylor is the new coordinator of our Supper Club. If you have any questions or want help in planning an outing, please give her a call.

**On July 9th, Mary Jo Osborn is planning an evening at the Green Parrot in Santa Ana at 6:00pm. The Green Parrot is located at 2035 N. Main Street,**

Thank you, Lou and Karen, for hosting our June Supper Club at Darya Restaurant in Orange.

Come and bring your friends and family and enjoy a night out on the town!

## **COFFEE JAM & OPEN MIC NIGHT**

Our ever popular Coffee Jam & Open Mic Night will be held on **Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** from 7-9pm outdoors in the parking lot.



The monthly Coffee Jam & Open Mic Nights, hosted by Andrew Mauzey, have been a GREAT success!



The last Friday evening of the month, musicians, poets, college students and friends gather for an evening of music, coffee and fun. Musicians take turns entertaining everyone with their renditions of popular songs and original works. Others recite poetry or entertain the audience with comedy. Pass the word to your college aged friends and family, and let them know of this wonderful event.

Cecily Gates has volunteered to be the go-to person if you would like to donate coffee or snacks for the Coffee Jam. Please let her know if you are interested in helping.

## **MORNING PRAYER**

The Office of Morning Prayer is celebrated every Sunday morning led by Deacon Mahoney, at 9:30am in the Sanctuary.



Participating is a wonderful way to begin your worship. The lessons read in the service are listed in the Prayer Book and complement the Epistle and Gospel lessons.

Just a reminder, voices travel in the narthex. So please be considerate, and greet your fellow parishioners outside so as not to disturb Morning Prayer.

## THE GLORIA

There are, in fact, three "*Glorias*." There is the *Gloria Tibi*, used just before the reading of the Gospel in the Service of Holy Communion —

"Glory be to thee, O Lord." Then there is the *Gloria Patri*, which is sung as a doxology after the reading of psalms — "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost."



The third *Gloria* is the one with which we are concerned here, and it is this one which is generally meant when one speaks simply of "The *Gloria*." It is the *Gloria in excelsis*, the great hymn of praise which, in our American 1928 Book of Common Prayer, concludes the Eucharistic Liturgy.

This ancient Greek hymn is drawn from various sources. It begins with the salutation used by the angels at our Savior's birth, "Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:14). The hymn then continues to expand on this theme as it relates to God the Father.

In the second stanza, the *Gloria* turns its focus to God the Son, using phrases and themes very familiar to us from the *Kyrie* ("Lord, have mercy upon us.") and the *Agnus Dei* ("O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.")

The hymn concludes with a short third stanza which is renewed acclamation of praise for the Son as a part of the Holy Trinity.

The Eastern Church has used the *Gloria* in the Daily Offices since the fourth century. It was introduced into the mass itself in the

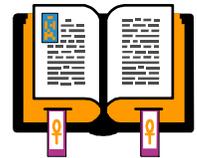
Roman Church in the late fifth century. Archbishop Cranmer did not disturb this use except that in the 1552 Book he moved it to the end of the service from its traditional position following the *Kyrie*, early in the Eucharist. At St. Mary Magdalene we use the traditional Prayer Book use at 8:00 and end the Mass with the *Gloria*. At 10:00 the *Gloria* is after the *Kyrie*.

Wherever it is placed, this "greater doxology" represents a mighty and joyous burst of praise and adoration. Penitence is intermixed with it, but taken as a whole it is joyful. For this reason, it deserves the wholehearted participation of the worshipper, whether said or sung.

It is customary to omit the *Gloria* in the Anglican rite during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, substituting for it a verse or two of some appropriate hymn, often said rather than sung.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study is looking at the Book of Hebrews. We are using the books "Hebrews" by John MacArthur and F. F. Bruce's "Commentary on Hebrews".



The Bible Study meets in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. (**The Bible Study will not be held on vestry meeting night – July 10<sup>th</sup>.**)

## SAVE THE DATE

*You're Invited*

The **Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** Supper Club will be held in the Breezeway at 7:00pm. The evening will be hosted by Father and Sharon.

## **CRAFTY KNITTERS & CROCHETERS**

Our Crafty Knitters group has expanded to include Crocheting. Gather your knitting needles, crochet hooks and yarn, and join us for an afternoon of knitting and crocheting.



**The Crafty Knitters will be attending the Patronal Picnic on July 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Mark your calendar and attend our next gathering on **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** following the 10:00am Mass and each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after that. Bring a sack lunch and join us as we learn to knit and crochet.

If you have any questions, please give Robin Morsk a call.

## **ALL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CLUB**



Join the men of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in the narthex each **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

at 11:30am. Currently we are reading R.C. Sproul's book "The Holiness of God. This book is full of short essays which we read together and then discuss.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH**

The Fourth Sunday brunches are a great way to get to know your church family. Everyone always has a wonderful time visiting with each other and of course partaking of the delicious food!



Watch the Sunday bulletins for information about upcoming brunches. If you have any questions about our brunches, or suggestions for future outings, please give Elizabeth Sneddon a call.



## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

The following community groups meet regularly at St. Mary Magdalene.

### **Al-Anon**

Friends and Families of Problem Drinkers  
Monday evenings at 7:30pm  
Saturday evenings at 7:00pm

### **CHADD**

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Third Monday evening at 7:30pm

### **Orange County Fictionaires**

Critique Group for Professional Writers  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7:30pm

### **Orange Fiction Writers**

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm



## **ST. MARTHA'S WOMEN'S GUILD**

St. Martha's Women's Guild meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after the 10:00am Mass. All women of the parish are members and are encouraged to attend.



**Next Guild Meeting**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup>**

## **Patronal Picnic** **July 21<sup>st</sup>**



**Don't miss out on the fun.**  
**Mark your calendar now.**

## BIRDS-ON-A-WIRE LUNCH GROUP

If you are interested in a time of fellowship and lively conversation, bring a sack lunch and join us in the Parish Hall the **first Sunday of the month** after the 10:00am mass. There is no schedule of planned topics to be discussed, nor is there a book to be studied, just plenty of spirited discussions and lots of fellowship. For more information, please see Father Neil.



## 2013 TREAT ROSTER

**Be sure to check the calendar page in The Magdalene to see if you are scheduled to bring treats this month or next.**

When you are scheduled, you are asked to bring treats for coffee hour **for both services** (anything you would like but a total amount equal to 4 dz donuts.) **If you are unable to bring treats on your “scheduled” Sunday, please swap Sundays with another parishioner**, and give Ken Sammons or Kelly McMahan (alternate) a call letting them know of the change.



**Please bring your treats by 8:30am in time for the early service. You are also asked to clean-up after the 11:00 coffee hour (around 11:45.)** If you are unable to stay late, you might be able to “pair up” with someone to clean-up for you if you bring their treats. Let Kelly McMahan know if you are arranging to have someone clean-up for you.

If you are looking to take on a ministry and would like to help as a substitute, when needed, please contact Fr. Neil directly.

## WEDNESDAY MASS & HEALING SERVICE

Father Neil celebrates a Mass and Healing Service each week on Wednesday morning at 9:00am. This is a wonderful mid-week Mass to add to your schedule. The Healing Service takes place at the end of the Mass, with those wanting to participate approaching the altar rail for the Anointing of the Sick.

## *Anointing of the Sick*

## MAGDALENE ADVERTISEMENTS

Each month the Magdalene is mailed to parishioners, distributed around town, and mailed to senior citizen centers and selected homes in Orange, Santa Ana and Garden Grove.

This mailing is made possible by our faithful advertisers. Without their help, we would be unable to reach the multitude of people that get to know us through this outreach effort.

St. Mary Magdalene Church invites you to promote your business with an advertisement in our monthly newsletter.

Our yearly distribution is more than 2,400 newsletters mailed to homes in Orange, Santa Ana, Huntington Beach and various surrounding cities.

To reserve your space contact:  
Fr. Neil Edlin at (714) 532-2420 or  
[info@stmarymagdaleneacc.org](mailto:info@stmarymagdaleneacc.org)

## VESTRY MEETING

Vestry meetings are open to the congregation and are usually held at 7:15pm the second Wednesday night of the month.

**Next Vestry Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**



# DATES TO REMEMBER

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7</b>	8	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	11	12	13
<b>14</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21</b>	22	23	24	25	<b>26</b>	27
28	29	30	31			

- Mass & Healing Service –  
 9:00am Wednesdays  
 Bible Study – Wednesdays 6:30pm  
 7 – Brown Bag Lunch & Speaker  
 9 – Supper Club at 6:00pm  
 10 – Vestry Meeting 7:15pm  
 14 – St. Martha’s Guild/Men’s Group  
**21 – PATRONAL BBQ**  
 26 – Coffee Jam

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
<b>4</b>	5	<b>6</b>	7	8	9	10
<b>11</b>	12	13	<b>14</b>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	<b>23</b>	24
<b>25</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Mass & Healing Service –  
 9:00am Wednesdays  
 Bible Study – Wednesdays 6:30pm  
 4 – Brown Bag Lunch & Speaker  
 6 – Supper Club – Breezeway dining at 7:00pm  
 11 – St. Martha’s Guild/Men’s Group  
 14 – Vestry Meeting 7:15pm  
 23 – Coffee Jam  
 25 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 11 – Patriot Day Christian Prayer Service**  
**11:00am**

## COFFEE HOUR TREATS

- July 7 – Gates  
 14 – Brant / Rosenkranz  
 21 – Patronal BBQ  
 28 – Burgess  
 Aug 4- Carlson  
 11 – Coykendall  
 18 - Craig  
 25 – Di Filippo



Please plan on setting out treats at 8:30am and cleaning up after the 11:15 social time. Be sure to switch with someone else if you are unable to take your Sunday. **Don’t forget you’re in charge of cleanup as well as treats!**

## ALTAR FLOWERS / SANCTUARY LIGHT

Altar Flowers      Sanctuary Light

- July 7  
 14 Bell  
 21  
 28

If you are interested in “giving” one of these for a future Sunday, please sign up in the Flower and Candle binder in the narthex of the church.



Flowers of Orange has a new owner who has reduced our cost for the flowers. **We’ve lowered our suggested donation to \$30 for flowers & \$12 for the light**, but feel free to give what you are able. Mark flowers / candles on your check and place it in the offering basket during Mass.

**Visitors are  
 always welcome.  
 Join us!**

