



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
Margaret Mead



**PAUSE FOR REFLECTION
ADVENT**



Star of Bethlehem flowers

"May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.... May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.... May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.... May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world." *Joyce Rupp*



ST AUGUSTINE

"Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure, where your treasure is, there is your heart, there is your happiness."

MASS FOR THE DEAD

We were joined by about a hundred people at New Hall on the first Saturday in November for our Annual Mass for the Dead.

Fr Damien Wade from Chelmsford was our celebrant and we were pleased that the sun shone in the afternoon, allowing many of us to visit our cemetery.



TODAY'S BIG QUESTIONS

We have been fortunate to have some excellent input to start off our series looking at 'Today's Big Questions'.

We began with a very helpful talk on 'Discerning Wisdom' given by Dr Jessie Rogers who made history recently, becoming the first lay person and the first woman to be Dean of St Patrick's College, Maynooth. As a Scripture scholar specialising in the Old Testament, her academic work focuses on biblical Wisdom literature.



She navigated her way through some of the very challenging questions facing us today when the world around us is presenting us with difficult ethical and moral decisions.

The text of her talk and a recording of the Zoom is available on our website via this link.

It is highly recommended.

[Big Questions - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

This was followed by a further session looking at our first 'Big Question' which was 'The Question of Migration: A Christian Response'.



This session was facilitated by Megan Knowles who has spent over six years working alongside refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Her work with the Jesuit Refugee Service has focussed on raising awareness and amplifying the voices and experiences of refugees. Her input and questions for reflection were challenging and led to a fruitful discussion.

The talk is available on our website if you would like to catch up on it.

[Big Questions - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

Every evening since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we have been praying for peace in that part of the world.

Since October 7th, we have broadened that prayer to include the current conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre began with the creation of Canons at the Holy Sepulchre at the end of the eleventh century, and we have retained a deep spiritual bond with the Holy Sepulchre as the place of Christ's burial and resurrection.

Our prayer for peace in that land is therefore very fervent and personal.



TWENTY YEARS IN MELBOURNE 2003 - 2023

On November 13th the Wisdom group in Melbourne celebrated its 20th birthday. Founded by the Community in November 2003, it has gone from strength to strength and enjoys weekly varied sessions in Langton Hall.

The celebration involved a visiting singer - cake and a lot of Prosecco!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Beginning Advent with the Community: Saturday 2nd December, 3pm at 74 Howe Close, CO4 3XD.

Talk from Dr Cormac Begadon looking at the recent excavations on the site of the Community's last home in Liège followed by Advent Evening Prayer and mulled wine and mince pies.

Advent reflections on Zoom at 5.30pm. Link via the website:

[ADVENT 2023 - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

Sunday 3rd December - "What is God doing this Advent?"

Sunday 10th December - "Lighting the Darkness"

Sunday 17th December - "Opening the Door of our Hearts"

Friday 22nd December - "Emmanuel"

Advent Service at Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourne Avenue, Wednesday 20th December, 5.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**END WITH
A SMILE!!!**



**To get rid of
unwanted junk
during the
holidays ...**

**Put it in an
Amazon box and
leave it on the
porch.**

Contact us:-

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