

I, along with a healthy number of other St. Martin's people, attended the annual Keble Mass on Thursday evening, at St. George's, Malvern. The service is organised by the Australian Church Union (ACU), which is an organisation committed to being a distinctive and progressive catholic presence within the Anglican Church of Australia, and particularly in the Diocese of Melbourne. It commemorates the life and faith and legacy of John Keble, an English churchman and poet, who was one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement, the movement of High Church members of the Church of England in the 1830's, which eventually developed into Anglo-Catholicism.

At the heart of that Renewal is what lies at the heart of the life of this parish, the offering of the Eucharist. The Oxford Movement placed the Eucharistic celebration at the very centre of the Christian life and that of the Church. It led to a new understanding of the vocation of all Christian people to holiness of life. The self-offering of Christ in the Eucharist draws us ever more into the sacrifice of the cross so that we might imitate him, serve as he served, love as he loved, proclaim his Good News, announce the kingdom, and make new disciples.

Bishop Alison Taylor, the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane, was the guest preacher on the night. Her sermon urged us to reconsider and reclaim the sense of the word "holiness", as it pertains to the way in which we as Christians live. She claimed that the majority of sermons in an Anglo-Catholic context were more about theology and answering the difficult questions of life, rather than focussing on a "holy life". She reminded those present that our life includes every part of us, including our body, emphasising the way in which Anglo-Catholic liturgy tries to engage all of our senses through its rituals of movement and sound and sight and smell.

I was delighted and humbled to be invited by Bishop Genieve some weeks ago now to consider the position of Area Dean for the Stonnington Deanery. Now that all of the various checks have been performed, and the Archbishop has agreed, I can formally announce that I have been appointed to this role, for the next 3 years. My responsibilities include bringing together the various ministers (Lay and Ordained) of the Deanery together regularly for fellowship and discussion, and a focus on their well-being. On a related matter (although he assures me the timing of his announcement is completely coincidental!) our Archdeacon, Fr. Ray McInnes has just announced his retirement from ministry at St. Silas', Albert Park. Ray will finish in the parish in February next year. Please keep he and Glenys in your prayers as they prepare for this transition, and for the parish as they seek a new Vicar.

May Mary Magdalene and all the Saints walk with you this week... *Sam*