



Commissioning

Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture



Professor Anthony M. Maher

Executive Director

Friday 20th May 2022



The Bible Garden



The Pilgrim Poles



Evening Prayer

Welcome: Bishop Sarah Macneil

Ochre Ceremony: Ngambri Elder: Uncle Mingku
(aka Shane Mortimer)

An Ochre Ceremony – *“unites all peoples as one”*

Hymn (TIS 693)

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

*Deirdre Browne 1936 –
Arr. David Putney*



The Opening Prayer

The day is now past and the night is at hand.
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be kept.

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

The Word of God

St Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23 – 4:7

Read by Lesley Maher

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

My point is this... when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, proclaiming Abba Father!'

After the reading silence is kept, then:

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.



The Commissioning

Bishop Sarah: Anthony, are you willing to take on the role and responsibilities of Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture?

Prof. Maher: I am, with the help of God.

Bishop Sarah: Anthony, as Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture you are responsible for promoting wisdom for the common good, through encounter and dialogue between Christians of all denominations and those of other faiths and no faiths; through the pursuit of creativity in the arts and sciences; through the promotion of institutional resilience and ethical leadership; and through fostering of wisdom in civil society? Do you commit yourself to this task?

Prof. Maher: I do, with the help of God.

Bishop Sarah: Do you also commit yourself to fostering the ecumenical ethos of the Centre and to further developing interfaith relationships and dialogue?

Prof. Maher: I do, with the help of God.

Bishop Sarah: Will you work collaboratively with the Board, and with academic, ecclesial and administrative colleagues, treating all with respect and godly kindness?

Prof. Maher: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Sarah: Do you promise to fulfil this role faithfully and with integrity, compassion, commitment, and prayerfulness?

Prof. Maher: I do, with the help of God.



Bishop Sarah (addressing those gathered) You have heard Anthony make these solemn commitments. Will you support him in these endeavours?

Response: We will, with the help of God.

Bishop Sarah: Anthony, I commission you as Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, fill you with wisdom and joy, enabling and strengthening you as you take up this role.

Prayers

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**



Prayer of the Week: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Dr Jonathan Cole

We behold your glory, O God,
in the love shown by your Son,
lifted up on the cross and exalted on high:
be glorified anew in the love we have for one another
as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



The Great Cross



Prayer for the Centre Prof. Stephen Pickard

God, powerful and gentle,
You love this southern land
And all its peoples, old and new.
As the cross shines in the heavens
So may Christ bring light to our nation,
As the waves encircle our shores
So may your mercy enfold us.

May the God who formed our southern land
Be for us a rock and strength.
May the God who rules our southern seas
Keep us safe from every storm.
May the God who made the southern skies turn
Our darkness into light.

As Canberra is a meeting place
Central to the Government of Australia,
So may this Centre be a true meeting place
Where all God's people may gather in a spirit of prayer,
A spirit of unity of minds and hearts; and
Where we may share in the very Communion of God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Archbishop Francis Carroll)



Prayer for the Executive Director

Bishop Sarah

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for all those you have called to serve you and your people as Executive Directors of this Centre since it was established. We thank you for their wisdom and their commitment over the years.

We pray especially tonight for Anthony as he in turn takes up this responsibility. May he be equipped with all he needs, and may this be a time of blessing for him and for those he loves, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of St John Chrysostom Emily Maher

Lord, you have given us grace to agree in these our prayers, and you have promised that when two or three ask together in your name you will grant their requests. Fulfil now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us. Grant us, in this life, knowledge of your truth and in the age to come, life eternal. **Amen.**

Psalm 121 - Grace Maher

I lift up my eyes to the hills:

but where shall I find help?

My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.

God will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and God who watches over you will not sleep.

**All: Be sure God who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.**



**The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;**

**The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.**

**The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is God who will guard your life.**

**The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.**

Blessing & Presentation - Bishop Sarah

The Chorus of Women:

“Ubuntu” - a song based on a Zulu philosophy about our shared humanity. One translation, which is included in the song, is: “I am who I am because of you; We are who we are because of each other.”

Book Launch *Theology and the People of God*

M.C.	Harry Maher
Launch	Prof. Stephen Pickard
Response	Prof. Anthony M. Maher
Thanks	Harry Maher

The Chorus of Women:

“A Recipe for Peace, by Glenda Cloughley”

Book Signings – Wine & Cheese – All Welcome!



Prof. Anthony M. Maher

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Prayer Book for Australia (Alexandria: Broughton Books, 1995)

Hymn words reproduced under licence CCL172377 *Chorus of Women led by Johanna McBride and Meg Rigby*

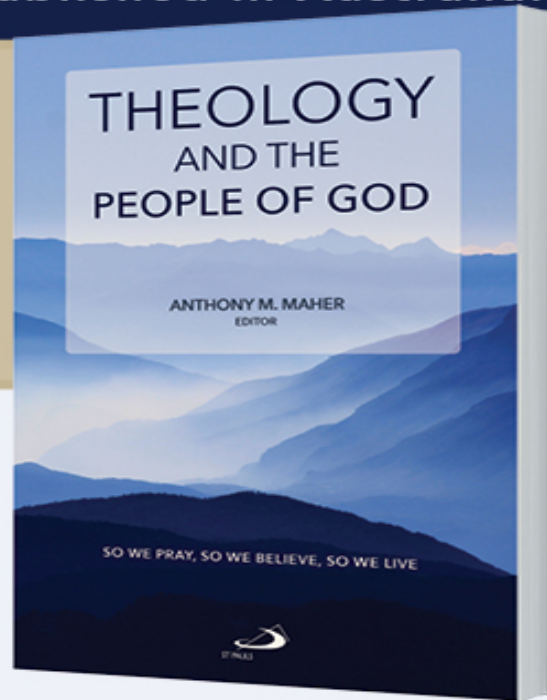


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ANTHONY M. MAHER
EDITOR



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