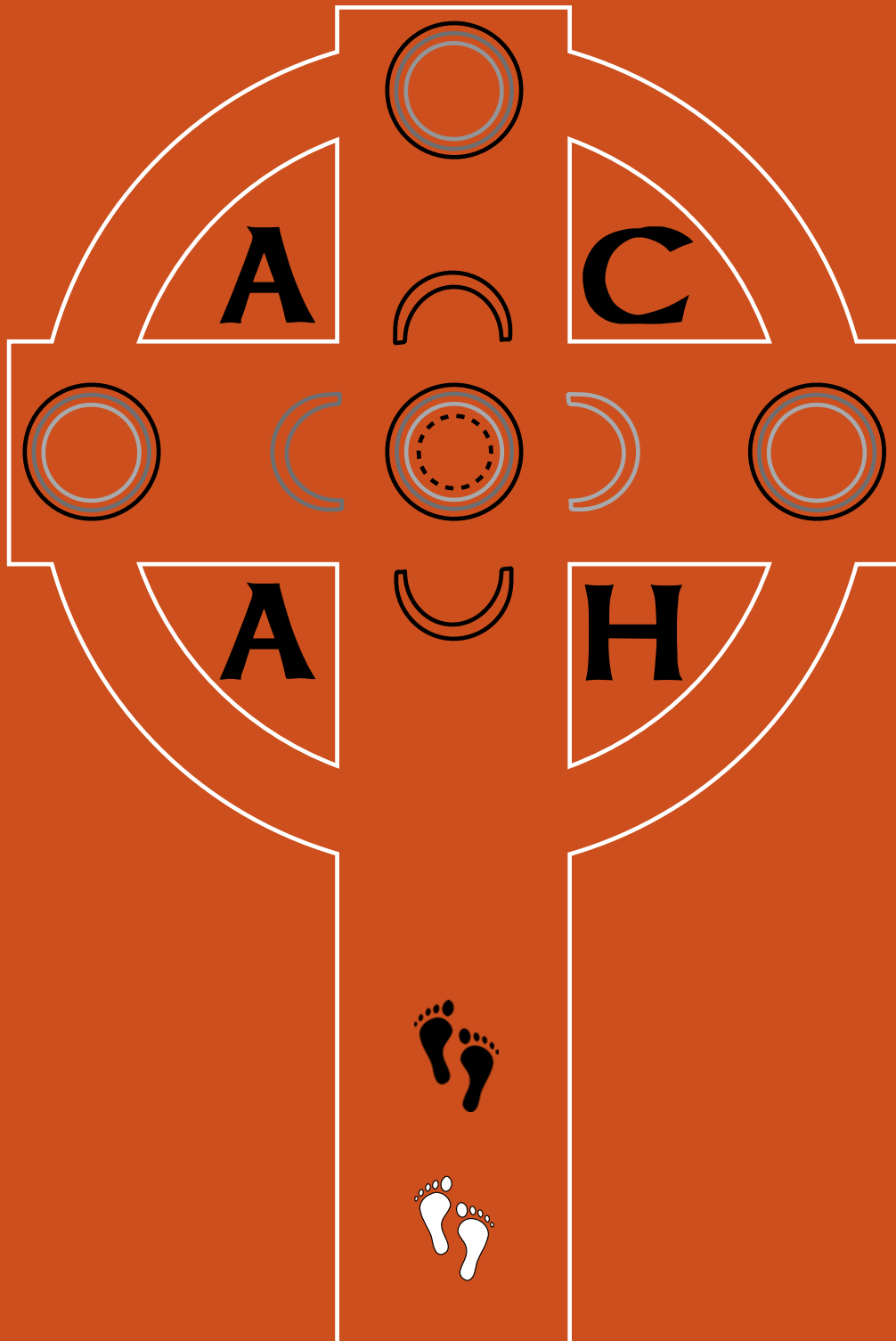
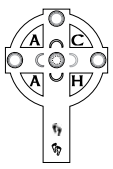


December 2019

# NEWSLETTER

*Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda*





# Welcome

BY BRUCE CHALLONER  
EDITOR

If you are a regular reader of our newsletters, you will see a few differences in this issue. The symbol is the obvious one.

We are initiating change. For many, change is difficult. For others, they see change as a risk, and no matter how effective the suggested change is, some are against it. They may be afraid but display their unwillingness to change with annoyance and resentment.

Present something not within an individual's value or belief process and observe their reactions. For some, the mention that according to Jewish custom, they circumcised Christ on the eighth day after birth, may not fit within their picture of Christ. I may indeed get emails on the issue! Even seeking to point out that Christ had to be wholly human for us to be saved may not fit within their value structure.

So it is with Christmas. This modern concept of the deep yearning to create Christmas as a joyous, exciting time of Christmas trees, presents, food and harmony on earth. There is nothing improper with that!

Let me sketch a picture of the year of Christmas day in 1AD, one year after the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To the apostles and believers, the day was nothing special from the preceding day. No ornaments, presents or tree. Nothing! The Jewish religion did not have a serious preference on celebrating birthdays. Births, yes. Birthdays, no. In fact, Origen (c.185-c.254), a Christian theologian, exhorted that it was improper to have a birthday for Christ. Pharaoh's and Herod's birthdays were honoured. Birthdays were for pagan gods. Not for Jesus Christ.

Christmas day (25th December) did not appear until around 273 and in the Western Church, 336, after Emperor Constantine came into power. Then, over the years, it picked up various changes. Change is not always negative.

Can you imagine not having Christmas Day in 2019! Perish the thought. And who knows, in another hundred years it may appear different then. As long as we glorify Christ, and He is remembered and loved, just as he was in 1AD, when there was no Christmas day.

Kelly Dalling - Rainbow Bee Eater



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# Changes

BY BRUCE CHALLONER  
LARA VIC

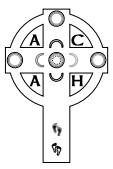
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Now that Simon Reed (Guardian of the Community of Aidan and Hilda UK) has completed his brief tour down under, it is time to reflect on the future of the Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda. Simon felt it was time to relaunch ourselves in Australia with reforms across the Community and would appreciate all members to take the time to reflect on

the ensuing questions.

- What draws you to Celtic Spirituality?
- Where do you see our community in Australia in five years?
- Specifically, what ways would you like the community to move ahead?

Judy and Bruce have encouraged Simon to become the Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda, Community Soul Friend. Simon's task would be to observe and provide help on any matters of the Community's growth and tasks. To provide guidance when requested. To be contactable by members with any areas of concern and to be engaged in the selection of Guardians. Because of limited numbers, we conclude that the Australian Caim Council requires to be discontinued as to such times as community numbers increase.



## Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda

The Caim Council encompasses the many obligations, which collectively make up the full way of life of the Community. We do not have sufficient Community Wayfarers to encompass areas. This will alter as we increase members to the Community. This means moving back to the start and as part of our re-launch, start anew from the beginning. This means one or two Guardians. Guardians are the Community's leaders and the concentrate of its harmony, who listen to God for the Community, preserve its Spirit and earth this in rhythm of prayer, contemplation and direction. The majority of Wayfarers have chosen Bruce Challoner and Judy Kennedy to be the first two Guardians in Australia to oversee the development and advancement of the Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda. Please uphold Judy and Bruce in pray, that the Holy Spirit may guide them with the complex task that lies before them. We are altering our website, leaflets and information to the new logo and our new colours are Ochre orange (front page) for arid earth, blue for the sky and green for the forests and plants. Even our name has switched from Community of Aidan and Hilda Australia to the Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda.

Over the subsequent days, you will notice other modifications to all parts of the Community.

## Our New Logo

Our new logo on the front page is a stylised outline around the Celtic Columba Cross or Ionic Cross (Iona). The Australian symbols of feet represent the Indigenous Nation (black) and Settlers to Australia (white). Notice that the white feet are at the bottom. Settlers must first meet and be reconciled to the Indigenous people. Then together, they can journey to the centre of the cross. The symbol at the centre of the cross represent an aboriginal meeting place with a centre circle and four people meeting around the meeting place. The three circles containing three circles at the outmost points

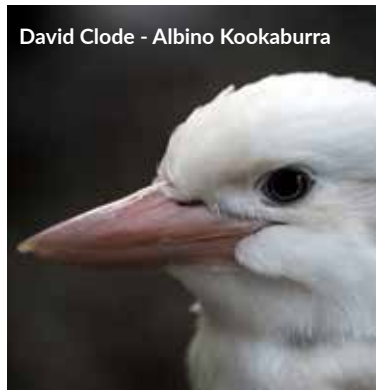
of the cross represent the Trinity. There are three places in the centre of the cross for the Trinity. The fourth place is for us (humans) to meet. The broken line circle in the centre represents the broken nature of man and the need to meet with God to be reconciled. Notice the seat colour for God is black and the colour seat for man is black as well. We are 'made in the image of God.' The logo was designed with the help of Aboriginal Anglican minister, Glenn Loughrey. The logo is designed in such a way that even if a person cannot read, they can follow the story within the cross.

## Other Changes

Most members within the international Community of Aidan and Hilda know the terms Explorer and Voyager. Here in Australia, the two names are offensive to the Indigenous people because the first Settlers took their land and killed their people. We decided that as part of the changes within our community, we would change to less offensive terms such as Seeker (Explorer) and Wayfarer (Voyager). We thank our Wayfarer, Heather Johstone's determination and prayers over the years in

bringing this about. The name Wayfarer, as a term, is keeping with our Way of Life including the Ten Elements of the Way in the Handbook. The Handbook, Annual Renewal Promises, First Voyage of the Coracle, prayers and new brochure will be rewritten with Australian content soon. Eventually, a Common Prayer Book for Australia and an Australian Eucharist will be produced. We will redesign the website to match the new logo and colours as will be future training courses.





David Clode - Albino Kookaburra



David Clode - Beaded Dragon



David Clode - Budgerigars

## Igniting the Flame Course 2020

Igniting the Flame will begin in Australia, February 2020. A one year course defining a 'Way of Life' following Community of Aidan and Hilda guidelines. This distance learning course will be of interest if you are looking for a carefully structured and supportive way to make sense of your life. For further details see our website (back page) or contact Bruce Challoner for further details.

## Simon Reed's Visit Down Under

Simon Reed, Guardian of the Community in the U.K. came for a two week visit to see Wayfarers and discover the large distances of separation and the unique issues facing the Community. Simon went home with new insights and understanding of our indigenous culture and way of life, having met with various people around Australia. Thank you Simon for your visit.

## Way Marks of Life Email Course

Ray Simpson, Founding Guardian of the Community in the U.K. has created a five year email course. An email is sent each day for seven days, then seven days for reflection, then the cycle starts again. The course is self-guided, but students may add insights and resources to their Facebook page (private – only open to subscribers at waymarksoflife) See [www.waymarksoflife.com](http://www.waymarksoflife.com).



David Clode - Dainty Tree Frog

## Christmas Poem 2019

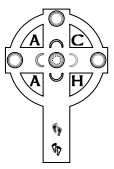
On behalf of our Community Guardians, Judy and Bruce, Wayfarers, Seekers and their families may your Christmas be filled with Love, Joy and Peace.

As Christmas approaches, here is a poem about Jesus' birth written about 350AD by a prolific Christian poet, Saint Ephrem the Syrian.

This small excerpt is from his Nativity Poem and is based on 2 Corinthians 8:9

Your Mother is a cause for wonder. The Lord entered her, and became a servant: the Word entered her, and became silent; thunder entered her, and made no sound: the Shepherd of all entered her; He became a Lamb in her, and came forth bleating.

Your Mother's womb changed the order of things, O You that orders all! He entered in His richness, He came out poor: the Exalted One went in, He came out lowly. The Splendrous One entered her but came forth having put on a lowly hue. The Mighty One went in, and put on insecurity in her womb. He that provides for all went in, and experienced hunger. He that gives drink to all went in, and experienced thirst. Naked and bare came forth from her, He that clothes all.



# Dreamtime

## *What is 'Dreaming'?*

Editor: *The following explanation is taken from the Aboriginal Art & Culture site in Alice Springs, central Australia. [www.aboriginalart.com.au](http://www.aboriginalart.com.au)*

According to Aboriginal belief, all life as it is today - Human, Animal, Bird and Fish is part of one vast unchanging network of relationships which can be traced to the great spirit ancestors of the Dreamtime.

### *The Sacred World*

The Dreamtime continues as the "Dreaming" in the spiritual lives of aboriginal people today. The events of the ancient era of creation are enacted in ceremonies and danced in mime form. Song chant incessantly to the accompaniment of the didgeridoo or clap sticks relates the story of events of those early times and brings to the power of the dreaming to bear of life today. The Dreamtime is the Aboriginal understanding of the world, of it's creation, and it's great stories. The Dreamtime is the beginning

of knowledge, from which came the laws of existence. For survival these laws must be observed.

The Dreaming world was the old time of the Ancestor Beings. They emerged from the earth at the time of the creation. Time began in the world the moment these supernatural beings were "born out of their own Eternity".

The Earth was a flat surface, in darkness. A dead, silent world. Unknown forms of life were asleep, below the surface of the land. Then the supernatural Ancestor Beings broke through the crust of the earth from below, with tumultuous force.

The sun rose out of the ground. The land received light for the first time. The supernatural Beings, or Totemic Ancestors, resembled creatures or plants, and were half human. They moved across

the barren surface of the world. They travelled hunted and fought, and changed the form of the land. In their journeys, they created the landscape, the mountains, the rivers, the trees, waterholes, plains and sandhills. They made the people themselves, who are descendants of the Dreamtime ancestors. They made the Ant, Grasshopper, Emu, Eagle, Crow, Parrot, Wallaby, Kangaroo, Lizard, Snake, and all food plants. They made the natural elements : Water, Air, Fire. They made all the celestial bodies : the Sun, the Moon and the Stars. Then, wearied from all their activity, the mythical creatures sank back into the earth and returned to their state of sleep.

Sometimes their spirits turned into rocks or trees or a part of the landscape. These became sacred places, to be seen only by initiated men. These sites had special qualities.



# The 'How To' of James

BY BRUCE CHALLONER  
LARA, VIC

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It is time to wrap up our course on James with James 5. In the instant realm of today, we now demand to encounter instant gratification. Can't stick around. Must have it now! The latest iPhone or Android phone. The latest fashions. The next generation Smart TV. Got to have the best! Don't save up for it, just put it on your 'card'. We are rapidly not merely forgetting the art of delayed gratification, but individuality reigns. Look at the road 'rage' everyday occurrence around you. The 'me', 'me', 'me' expression of

our current society.

## James 5:7-11 The How To of Patience

Even though James was written nearly two thousand years ago, the message of patience then, still applies today. Here, James is giving us more insights into how to be patient

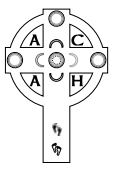
1. Be patient until the Lord's coming (James 5:7-9)
2. Be patient in the face of suffering (James 5:10-11)
3. Be patient and you will be blessed (James 5:11)

## To be Patient until the Lord's return

For those caught up in our instant world, you can imagine a person in counselling asking "How long must I be patient for. A few moments, an hour or maybe half a day?" You can imagine the pained look that crosses their face when you say, "Until the Lord returns!"

Patience is a life long skill which James is encouraging Christians to embrace, regardless. There are very good reasons to be patient.





## Australian Community of Aidan and Hilda

The story of a desert monk amplifies the point. A brother became tired of his community and the behaviour of others often annoyed him. He decided, "I will go off somewhere by myself. Then I will neither talk or listen and shall be at peace. This anger I feel will depart." He went out into the desert and made his home in a cave. One day he placed a water jug he had filled on the ground. (You need to understand that most times in the desert, water could be miles away. There was one monk that had to walk all day to get water). The jug rolled over, spilling its contents. He filled it again and it fell over again. When this happened the third time, he became enraged, took hold of the jug and smashed it against the rocks. Calming down, he realised that anger had mocked him. "Here I am by myself and anger has beaten me. I will return to the community. Wherever we live, we need to work at being patient with God's help."

### To be Patient in the face of suffering

The passages (5:10-11) speak about suffering. Note, suffering comes first. It is in the suffering we learn patience (compare with Romans 5:3). We can suffer in many different ways. Suffering can be physical, emotional, spiritual or mental. James knew from the Old Testament stories that patience developed a trust of God.



Patience develops a deeper relationship with God. This was the outcome of the desert monk. Not going by his own understanding, but in patience, learning to trust God.

Rollo May (April 21, 1909 – October 22, 1994) was an American existential psychologist and author of the influential book *Love and Will* (1969). He once said, "People then should rejoice in suffering, strange as it sounds, for this is a sign of the availability of energy to transform their characters. Suffering is nature's way of indicating a mistaken attitude or way of behaviour, and, to the non-egocentric person, every moment of suffering is the opportunity for growth."

Something an impatient driver in traffic will never learn.

### To be Patient and you will be Blessed

James helps the reader understand that being patient has blessings attached to it. They can come in many forms, but typically less stress, therefore less strain on the body. A clearer mind to think through outcomes. Different consequences than an impatient person. A peaceful mind and body to name a few. This is before we even look at spiritual outcomes such as the story of Job.

The following anonymous poem is of a person who understands the wisdom of patience and in being patient till the Lord's return is willing to change attitudes, values and beliefs that are not of the Lord.

*I asked God for strength,  
that I might achieve, I was*



*made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey....  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity, that I might do better things....  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy, I was given poverty, that I might be wise....  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men, I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God....  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life, I was given life, that I might enjoy all things....  
I got nothing that I asked for but everything that I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am among all men most richly blessed*

Take the time to study the Book of James. His wisdom from God stands the test of time and changes lives!

## *Practical Exercises for Gaining Patience*

1. What areas of life do you need to practice patience? Write out a list of at least four. Ask God to place you in situations where you can gain greater patience.

Reassess yourself after each incident on improvement, or have a close friend assess and encourage you. If angry, anxious or impatient in a situation, what do you need to put off and put on?

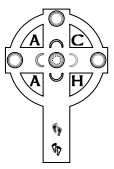
2. Life has its storms of suffering. In suffering do you ask God to pick on someone else or remain in it and look towards Him for guidance and patience. Make a scale 0 (no patience) one end and 10 (patience of Job) at the other. Keep a diary and scale yourself through life's storms. Is the scaling going higher or lower? Sit and talk with a trusted friend or counsellor on ways you can change to make the scale higher.

3. Do you complain when things go wrong? Make a list of the sentences you actually say. Compare your sentences with Galatians 5:22-23. Pick a sentence and using one of the fruits (for example - self control). How would you rewrite your sentence using self control? Next time use the new sentence and not the old one.

4. What ways does the Holy Spirit encourage you to be more patient? Make a list of at least five ways. Pray to use them in coming situations.

Jacques Boop - Kioloa Coast NSW





# Book Review - Another Time Another Place

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Glenn Loughrey's book *Another Time Another Place - Towards an Australian Church* is a short book of only 51 pages but packed with more questions than answers.

Don't let that turn you off, because you will miss the gold field of wisdom in the pages.

Until the Australian churches address these questions and confidently answer them, we cannot go forward as a society.

Churches are meant to be the spiritual heart of their community. Unfortunately, we have neglected to grasp over 40,000 years of God amongst his creation. The indigenous nations.

Glenn asks the challenging questions on different

subjects using Scripture. Chapters include Breaking the Sacred Plot, History, Ethos, Language and Spirituality, Maturity and Transformation. He asks many more questions than he answers.

As an Anglican minister, Glenn focuses on transformations that are required within the Anglican Church, but can relate to any church within Australia. For example, how do we allow church services to mature into an Australian native, instead of adopting words, values, liturgies, images, beliefs and practices originating in other places like Europe, Middle East, England, Africa and the USA? What should we replace them with, which precisely establishes an Australian sense of spirituality?

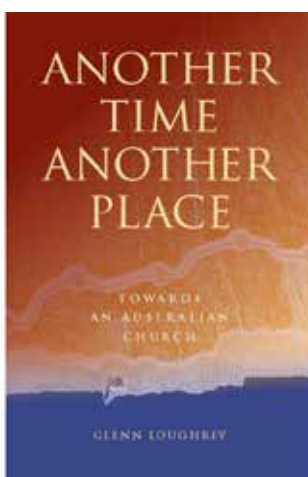
Glenn refuses to pick up his foot off the accelerator pedal and pushes home further challenges in each chapter. He recognises the action of transplanted churches of 1800 and beyond is no longer important to the younger generation of today. His most challenging chapter is 'Language and Spirituality'. With the readings from Mark 7:1-23 and James 1:17-27.



Glenn Loughrey

Glenn notes, "Perhaps the issue is how to come to grips, not so much with the language and spirituality, but with the split between what we have been told is the essence of language and spirituality and the reality embedded in the rhetoric of our national myths ... What do these myths say about how we believe and speak." In closing, Glenn suggests, "How many parishes across Australia ... are taking Jesus seriously and letting go of preconceptions and the ways that have been normal here."

We should open this book up every twelve months to determine our Christian lifestyles. Is Christ still walking alongside of us or have we dropped him behind and refocussed on our preconceived ideas instilled within us by our churches 20, 30, 50 years ago? Another challenge to contemplate!



Bri Kelly - Rainbow Lorikeet



## Prayer for Aboriginal People

Heavenly Father, allow your Holy Spirit to move among the Aboriginal people of Australia. You have communicated with them down through time. May this Christmas be a time of knowing about your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray for open hearts and minds for the Holy Spirit's work during this Christmas season. May there be renewed hearts of love towards you. In your Son's name we ask. Amen.

## Prayer at Christmas

Creator of all things, as our hearts and minds turn towards new beginnings at the birth of Christ, may lonely people find family, those in despair and depression - hope, sorrow and grief - a welcoming arm of love, anxiety and fear - peace. May Christmas be a new beginning for all suffering.

David Clode - Sunbird



Philip Barrington - Flame Tree



## Prayer for Aidan and Hilda Communities

Gardener of the earth, may your family experience a turning of the soil of their lives, a fertilisation of mind heart and soul of your love, a pruning of dead and dying leaves, a watering of your Spirit's renewal, a sunshine of strengthening for the days ahead. May they feel the presence of your guiding and nurturing hands. Amen.

## Prayer for Community Guardians

Loving Father, thank you for your chosen Guardians among the communities. Give them the grace to show love in difficult situations, wisdom to answer with kindness and patience, self control when confronted with misunderstanding and faithfulness to serve you in all situations.

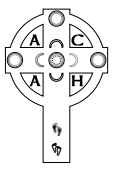
David Clode - Angelfish



## Quote:

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? - Psalms 116:12, *Text of the first sermon delivered in Australia, 3rd February 1788, by Rev. R. Johnson (Church of Eng.)*





# Wisdom Circle Mandala

BY MATT LAMONT  
NEWCASTLE NSW

The Celtic Cross simultaneously holds together life and death, pain and joyful resurrection and offers it to the whole universe. This painting is in essence grief work. We lost our third daughter three days after her birth in 2010 after a relatively uncomplicated pregnancy. Until fifteen minutes before delivery, there was no indication all was not well. She was born with an e-coli infection and was simply not strong enough to live. She never left hospital, she could be lightly touched but barely held, and was unresponsive for most of her short life. Looking back, how much needs to go well for any of us to be here.

The red background indicates that what is portrayed is linked to the Eternal. The gold coloured cross draws on the wisdom understanding that wisdom is better than gold and silver (Proverbs 9:10-11) and indicates that this image carries a treasure of infinite value.

The inner brown or red ochre ring is the earthy womb for both babies that survive and babies that perish. This reality is immense, paradoxical, deeply moving and largely beyond intellectual understanding. However both realities can lead to a release of love. The inner circle is unintentionally similar to the Asian Ying Yang symbol and perhaps there is an archetypal resonance. This similarity arose naturally as I was trying to capture the two growing foetus each with a different life path. The curved white strip in the centre indicates the Mystery of the whole experience and the transfiguring Source of both life and death. I feel close to the reality of Christ's Wisdom in this image.

**Editor:** For many of us, Christmas is a time of family, peace, and goodwill. It is a time sitting around as a family, opening presents and collectively at the dinner table for Christmas lunch.

For some households, this may be their first year without a cherished one, specially a child lost during the year. This year will be a Christmas of heartache, tears, and grief. It may be a time for some, where opening presents and sitting for a meal is furthest from their minds.

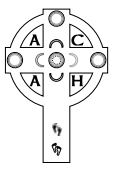
Years afterward, Matt created more art work on his daughter and composed this verse. Called 'Sacred Child of the Universe'

*She whose name was written  
On the shores of this Great South Land, East  
and West  
She who rests in Mother Earth  
And in the Hearth of our Home and Hearts  
She whose name is written  
On the shores of our Milky Way  
Dear Daughter, Child of Deep Peace  
Child of Stars and of Earth...  
Sacred Child of the Universe.*

We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We sing hymns and carols in remembrance of this unique occasion. As you do, also take the time to remember families going through a loss of a loved one and offer up a prayer for them.

*"Lord in time of tears of pain, grief and loss, may they feel your presence. A gentle touch wiping away a tear, a hand around a shoulder, the whispering support of your love, a glimmering light of hope in the churning blackness of despondency. Amen."*





## TheEnd!

Our logo is an outline of the Celtic Columba Cross or Ionic Cross (Iona). The Australian symbols of feet represent the Indigenous Nation (black) and Settlers to Australia (white). The symbols at the centre of the cross represent an aboriginal meeting place. The broken line circle is the broken nature of man and the need to meet with God to be reconciled. The three circles at the edges of the cross represent the Trinity.

## NEXT!

Our next newsletter will be on the Autumn Equinox which is Friday, 20th March 2020 (Southern Hemisphere).

Andy Toots - Monkey Mia WA

## Disclaimer

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