



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Pew Reflections REFLECTIONS ABM

1 May – 27 July 2025

Readings from
An Australian Lectionary 2025
(Year C)

Written by
Robert McLean
A member of the ABM staff

The Scripture is God's way of initiating a conversation; prayer is our response.
– Mark Batterson

It is a pleasure to present the May to July set of ABM's *Pew Reflections* for 2025.

We hope that these reflections will stimulate you to ponder more deeply as you read or hear what God is saying to the Church, and to you, through the Sunday and feast day readings. We hope that they will be a springboard for you to delve more deeply into the Holy Scriptures.

This is why we feast on the Word of God, to understand the love of God, shown in the flesh-and-blood person of God, that we might find our way back to God.
– Wendy Speake

In Christ,

Wilnor Flores
Church to Church Officer

Robert McLean

Born in New Zealand, Robert McLean was a chorister at the now ruined-by-earthquakes Christchurch Cathedral as a child. As an undergraduate, he studied history at the University of Canterbury and then took a post-graduate degree in theology at the University of Otago. Since coming to Australia almost twenty years ago, apart from a stint on the administrative staff of the National Council of Churches in Australia, he has worked in a variety of roles with the Anglican Church: as an assistant in nursing and as a recreational activities officer for Anglican Retirement Villages; as vergier and as parish secretary at St James', King Street; and for the past sixteen years at ABM. Till just over a year ago he lived in Fairfield, NSW, close to the many Assyrian, Chaldean and Coptic Christians who have made new homes in this wonderful country. Neo-Aramaic, the 21st-century version of the Aramaic of Jesus, is spoken in the suburb's streets and shops.

How to use ABM's *Pew Reflections*

ABM's *Pew Reflections* are designed for you to be able to easily cut and paste them into your pew bulletins and apply your own formatting. As every parish bulletin has its own house style it is important that you use a typeface that fits into yours but as a general guide they can be formatted like the two examples below. We try to ensure that they take up about half of an A5 sheet, though some writers are more concise than others.

Example 1



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Pew Reflections

Good Friday

– Friday 3 April 2015

- Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12; Psalm 22
1 Corinthians 1.18-31 or Hebrews 10.16-25
John 18.1 – 19. 42

Good Friday could be called 'Where is God day?' so often is that question posed by the various texts offered today. The answer, where it is given, is in suffering, disfigurement, on a cross, wherever we would not like to look.

- Pray for the lost and the dying. Pray too for ecumenical and interfaith relationships.
- Pray for ABM's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

Text: The Very Rev John Roundhill, Dean of Bendigo
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Example 2

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Pew Reflections – May to July 2025

St Philip and St James

– Thursday 1 May, or Saturday 3 May 2025

- Isaiah 30.18-21; Psalm 19.1-6;
1 Corinthians 15.1-8; John 14.6-14

Jesus tells the disciples that if they know him they will know the Father. Indeed, from then on they *do* know the Father and have seen him. Philip then blunders in with ‘Lord, show us the Father and we shall be satisfied’, as if Jesus had not said what he had just said. Jesus uses this as a teaching moment and ends with a reassuring promise: ‘If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it’.

- Lord, whenever I do not understand, be patient with me and use that moment to help me learn.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy and its Executive Director, Rob Dawes

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Easter 3 C

– Sunday 4 May 2025

- Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5.6-14; John 21.1-19

In today’s Gospel reading the disciples do not immediately recognise the risen Jesus, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus and Mary Magdalene in the garden at the tomb did not. However, when he commands them to throw out the nets and they bring in a full catch (cf Luke 5) they realise exactly who he is.

- Lord, help the scales to fall from my eyes so that I recognise you each time I encounter you in the world.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

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St John

– Tuesday 6 May 2025

If not observed on 27 December

- Proverbs 8.22-31; Psalm 97;
1 John 1.1-5; John 20.2-8

In today’s Gospel reading we see, again, something of the ‘competition’ between St Peter and the Beloved Disciple. We are told that the Beloved Disciple holds back on entering the tomb when he arrives at it, but Peter just goes rushing on in. We’re told that Peter sees the graveclothes, but that the Beloved Disciple not only saw but believed when he went into the tomb. Whoever put together John’s Gospel – perhaps John himself, perhaps the Johannine Community – they wanted us to know that the Beloved Disciple outranked St Peter, in their minds at least.

- Lord, help me to see and believe, just like the Beloved Disciple and help me not to see faith as a competition with others.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Ceylon

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Easter 4 C

– Sunday 11 May 2025

- Acts 9.36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

The religious authorities confront Jesus at the Temple, demanding that he tell them unequivocally whether or not he is the Messiah. Jesus doesn’t play whatever game it is they want him to play and declares that he has clearly told them but they have not believed. The works that he has done have been in the Father’s name but, despite that, they have not believed. They, he unequivocally tells them, are not of his flock.

- Lord, may I always remain one of your flock by following you wherever you lead me.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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St Matthias

If not observed on 25 February

– Wednesday 14 May 2025

- Acts 1.14-17, 20-26; Psalm 113 or Psalm 84; Philippians 3.13-21; John 15.9-17

Jesus calls his disciples to bear fruit – fruit that will last. What are the fruits that we bear in our lives? Are they long-lasting and of significance, or are they just frippery and fluff?

- Lord, when I am chosen for a specific ministry help me to respond positively and if, like Matthias, I come in after a messy situation, help me to chart the way forward with clarity and reliance on you.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*

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Easter 5 C

– Sunday 18 May 2025

- Acts 11.1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-34

Jesus calls his disciples to love one another in the same way that he has loved them. How do we follow this new commandment? Do we embrace it, or do we leave it to others because we feel it's not really our thing? How can we break down our barriers so that love can radiate outwards from our hearts?

- Lord, help me to love others extravagantly, abundantly and lavishly, so that people may see you at work in my life.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

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Easter 6 C

– Sunday 25 May 2025

- Acts 16.9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21.10-14; 21.22 – 22.5; John 14.23-29 or John 5.1-9

St Luke tells us of St Paul's Macedonian vision in today's epistle reading. Paul goes to the city of Philippi in Macedonia to 'come over and help'. There he witnesses a believer, a merchant called Lydia and her household being baptised. Paul had little interest in sacramental ministry – his priorities being preaching and establishing communities of believers who would then be baptised by others.

- Lord, help me to help others when asked, as St Paul did, and to encourage those who have not been baptised to consider it for themselves and their families.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of South India

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Ascension Day

– Thursday 29 May 2025

- Acts 1.1-11; Psalm 110; Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53

Not so long ago in the cycle of readings the not-so-doubting Thomas was declaring the risen Christ to be his Lord and his God. Today's Gospel reading tells us that all the disciples worshipped Jesus after he had 'opened their minds to understand the scriptures' and left them as he ascended into heaven. They were filled with joy and thankfulness to God.

- Lord, open my mind to the scriptures so that I, too, may be filled with thankfulness and joy
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of South India

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The Visitation of the BVM to Elizabeth – Saturday 31 May 2025

- 1 Samuel 2.1-10; Psalm 113;
Romans 12.9-16b; Luke 1.39-57

Today the Gospel points us to something quite mundane and yet utterly out of the ordinary: a cousin visits a cousin, both are pregnant. Mary greets Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's child leaps in her womb. Elizabeth greets Mary, saying among other things, 'blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord'. Mary responds with the well-known canticle, 'My soul magnifies the Lord ...'

- Help me to believe your promises to me, O Lord, knowing that you are faithful from generation to generation. May I always call Mary blessed.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea, the Girls' Friendly Society and the Mothers' Union.

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Easter 7 C – Sunday 1 June 2025

- Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22.12-22; John 17.20-26

In today's Gospel reading we find Jesus praying for the unity of the disciples, the Church. He prays that they may see him in glory. He prays that the love with which the Father loved him may be in them and that he himself may also be in them. May every denomination yearn for unity – not uniformity – so that God's will be done.

- Lord, inspire me to find out about denominations other than my own, and learn about the National Council of Churches in Australia, and the state ecumenical bodies.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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Pentecost / Whitsunday C
– Sunday 8 June 2025

- Acts 2.1-21 *or* Genesis 11.1-9; Psalm 104.26-36;
Romans 8.14-17 *or* Acts 2.1-21; John 14.8-17 [25-27]

The hubris that resulted in the Tower of Babylon, and the divisiveness of multiple languages is healed by the coming of the Holy Spirit. People from all around the then-known world suddenly could understand one another as language barriers melted away. From a sermon of a sixth-century African preacher, name unknown: 'If anyone says to one of us: "You have received the Holy Spirit. Why do you not speak in tongues?", he should reply: "I do speak in tongues. For I am in the Body of Christ, the Church, which speaks in every tongue. For what did God signify by the presence of the Holy Spirit if it was not that His Church would speak in every tongue?"

- Lord, help me to speak intelligibly to those around me about you, your Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

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St Barnabas
– Wednesday 11 June 2025

- Job 29.11-16; Psalm 98;
Acts 11.22-30; 13.1-3; Matthew 10.7-13

Matthew's Gospel reading tells us about how Jesus expects disciples to behave: with the Good News in their mouths, ready to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons in his name. We need to be ready, not weighed down by attachment to our possessions.

- Lord, help me to be ready to go wherever you want me to represent you and the kingdom that I long for.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, remembering especially today the Bishop-Designate of Port Moresby, the Very Rev'd Wilfred Kekea, as well as the recently-appointed new Principal for the Bishop Newton School of Theology, the Rev'd Dr Ishaya Anthony, as well as the other staff and students.

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Trinity Sunday C
– Sunday 15 May 2025

- Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;
Romans 5.1-5; John 16.12-15

Christians believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, that each Person is fully God, and that there is only one God. Today we celebrate this belief which marks us out as being different from other monotheistic religions as well as all polytheistic ones.

- 'I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.'
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the CAPA, the Council of the Anglican Provinces of Africa.

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Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion – *Corpus Christi*
– Thursday 19 June 2025

- Exodus 24.3-8; Psalm 116;
1 Corinthians 10.14-21; Mark 14.12-16 [17-21] 22-26

Today we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, the Church's food on earth. Mark tells us how it happened, in the middle of Jesus' betrayal by Judas at a Passover meal. Despite all of the drama caused by Judas, Jesus nonetheless thinks of the ongoing life of the disciples after his death and tells them that whenever they eat bread and drink wine, they are to remember that he is giving them his Body and Blood.

- Lord, help me to be strengthened by the Sacred Banquet as I receive Christ's Body and Blood under the guise of bread and wine.
- Give thanks for the work of and witness of Alongside Hope/Auprès de l'espoir (formerly the Anglican Church of Canada's Primate's World Relief and Development Fund)

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Ordinary Sunday 12 C
– Sunday 22 June 2025

- 1 Kings 19.1-4 [5-7] 19.8-15a; Psalm 42 & Psalm 43;
Galatians 3.10-14, 23-29; Luke 8.26-39

Today we read a story about a dramatic transformation in the Gospel reading. Jesus heals a man with some kind of mental issue (perhaps psychosis, perhaps dementia – who knows?) in a town called Gerasa. Jesus has power over forces we do not understand and heals the man. Not only does he then ‘sit at the feet of Jesus’ like a disciple, but Jesus sends him to proclaim the Good News as a missionary to his Gentile neighbours. Those neighbours were ‘seized with great fear’ but Jesus only wanted the best for them, just as he had for the former demoniac.

- Lord, help me to remember all those suffering from sickness of the mind and all those who look after them in their distress.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*, the Anglican Church in Hong Kong.

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The Birth of John the Baptist
– Tuesday 24 June 2025

- Isaiah 49.1-6; Psalm 139.1-11;
Acts 13.[16-21] 22-26; Luke 1.57-66, 80

Today we hear the story of the birth of John the Baptist and the unsettling effect Zechariah’s being able to speak again had on the community in which he and Elizabeth lived. No wonder they all pondered on what this oddly-named John would turn out to be. God had called on him to be the Forerunner, the one who would cry out in the wilderness ‘Make straight the way of the Lord!’

- Lord, help me to look beyond any anxieties I might have to see what wonders you are doing around me.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of South-East Asia

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EITHER

St Peter and St Paul
– Sunday 29 June 2025

- Acts 12.1-11 or Ezekiel 34.11-16;
Psalm 87 or Psalm 34.1-10;
2 Timothy 4.6-8 [9-16] 17-18; John 21.15-22

Today we celebrate the two great missionaries of the apostolic period. In the Gospel reading we see Jesus telling Peter to follow him – and Peter quibbling over the role of the Beloved Disciple. In the Epistle reading we see Paul at the end of his ministry, confidently declaring that God will grant him the crown of righteousness. He says, ‘The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom.’

- Lord, may I follow you willingly and freely, and may I have confidence in being numbered among those in your heavenly kingdom.
- Give thanks for work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*, The Anglican Church of Japan

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OR

Ordinary Sunday 13 C
– Sunday 29 June 2025

- 2 Kings 2.1-2; 2.6-14; Psalm 77.1-2, 11-20;
Galatians 5.1, 13-25; Luke 9.51-62

In the Gospel reading we see James and John, the ‘Sons of Thunder’ wanting to rain fire down on a Samaritan village that would not receive Jesus. Jesus castigates them. We also see some would-be followers of Jesus who drop away for various reasons. We learn that following Jesus needs neither enthusiasm powered by fire, brimstone and rage, nor lukewarm passion that generates less heat than a 12-Watt lightbulb.

- Lord, give me enough enthusiasm to be useful to you and your kingdom, but not so much that I would seek to harm others.
- Give thanks for work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*, The Anglican Church of Japan

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Coming of the Light
– Tuesday 1 July 2025

- Isaiah 58.8-11; Psalm 27;
2 Corinthians 4.5-6; John 12.35-47

Jesus tells us that he has come as light into the world in today's Gospel reading. Whoever sees him in fact sees the one who has sent him. If we see Jesus we see God. How wonderful that by following Jesus we have light to guide us through all the days of our life.

- Lord, may I always see your light so that I may never flounder in the darkness or lose your hand and not be able to find it again soon. Let me walk as a child of the light.
- Give thanks for the work of and witness of Torres Strait Islander clergy and lay people to the rest of the Anglican Church of Australia.

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St Thomas *If not observed on 21 December*
– Thursday 3 July 2025

- Habakkuk 2.1-4; Psalm 117;
Ephesians 2.19-22; John 20.24-29

Today we celebrate Thomas, not for his doubt, but for his realisation that Jesus is God. We give thanks for all whose doubt is transformed into faith and we pray that those who continue to experience doubt may find their minds transformed

- Lord, when I doubt, let me experience your love for me so that I might believe.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines

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Ordinary Sunday 14 C
– Sunday 6 July 2025

- 2 Kings 5.1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6.[1-6] 7-18; Luke 10.1-12 [13-16] 17-24

In today's Gospel reading Jesus instructs seventy followers about spreading the Good News. Going out in pairs, everything is to be done systematically but it is to be done without getting bogged down in unnecessary preparation, without being distracted on the way, without wasting time on the unreceptive.

- Lord, help me to find ways and opportunities to spread the Good News of your love for the world.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Pakistan.

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Ordinary Sunday 15 C
– Sunday 13 July 2025

- Amos 7.7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37

It must have been an outrage to the Jewish authorities to hear that a despised Samaritan was being held up as a role model, rather than a priest or a Levite. Levites were members of the tribe of Levi, and their primary role was to serve as assistants to the priests in religious rituals and Temple services. They were responsible for tasks like maintaining the temple, singing during services, and keeping watch over the Tabernacle. Jesus was saying that the entire religious leadership of his day was morally bankrupt.

- Lord, help me always to help others when they need it, no matter what their religious background. Protect me from moral bankruptcy.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East and for that of Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City.

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Ordinary Sunday 16 C
– Sunday 20 July 2025

- Amos 8.1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1.15-29; Luke 10.38-42

Jesus is at Mary and Martha's home. Luke shows us how non-conforming Jesus' ministry was according to the times in which he lived in three ways: he is alone with women who are not related to him; a woman (not a slave) serves him; and he teaches a woman in her own house. Where should the Church reach out to today in unexpected ways?

- Lord, help me to surprise myself and others by doing things for you in new and atypical ways.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Amity Foundation, China

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St Mary Magdalene
– Tuesday 22 July 2025

- Song of Songs 3.1-4a; Psalm 63;
2 Corinthians 5.14-21; John 20.1-18

When the risen Jesus calls Mary Magdalene by name in the garden she recognises him instantly – there are parallels with Jesus and the disciples who are fishing, and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus where, in both cases, it is something that Jesus says that makes them realise who he is.

- Lord, help me to use my voice so that people see who I really am, a follower of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the one who has redeemed me.
- Give thanks for work and witness of Anglican women's Religious Orders throughout the world.

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St James
– Friday 25 July 2025

- Jeremiah 45; Psalm 126;
Acts 11.27-12.3 or 2 Cor. 4.7-15; Matthew 20.20-28

We are able – the motto of James and John. When their mother asked whether they could sit on either side of Jesus, he used her rather impertinent question to teach the disciples about servant leadership: 'Whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave' he says.

- Lord help me to serve, rather than to be served.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Iglesia Española Reformada Episcopal*, the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

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Ordinary Sunday 17 C
– Sunday 27 July 2025

- Hosea 1.2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2.6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11.1-13

Jesus teaches us how to pray, and tells us to be persistent in prayer. We are to ask for what we need – repeatedly if necessary – and we will be given that thing. ‘Everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.’ God will respond to those who ask through the Holy Spirit.

- Lord, help me to pray for those things that are necessary and good for me to have.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Bangladesh.

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