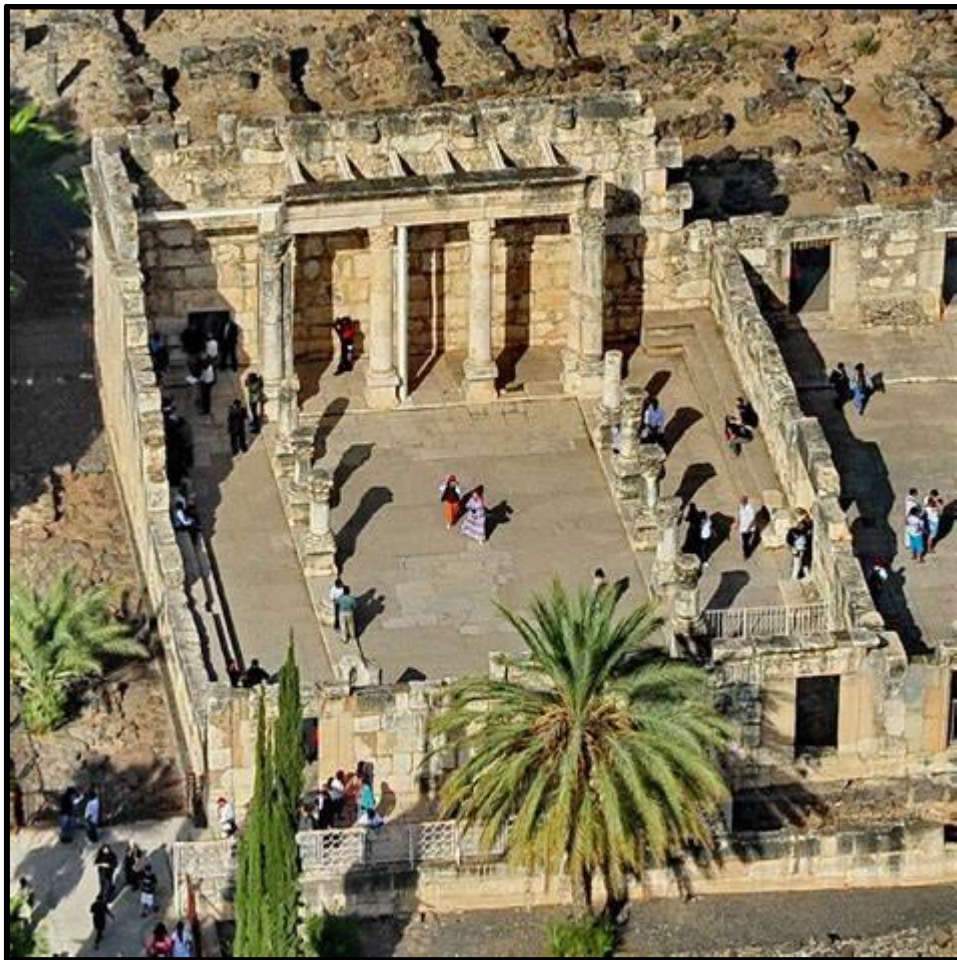


# St John the Baptist Bulimba.

7.30am and 9.00am.



SYNAGOGUE IN CAPERNAUM

## **READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**

**4 February 2024**

### **SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.  
*Isaiah 40.31*

### **THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:**

Saving God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick and brought them wholeness of body and mind: inspire us, his disciples, so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel by our words and by the dedication and integrity of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **COLLECT FOR ANSKAR OF SWEDEN:**

Keep your church from discouragement in the day of small things, O God, in the knowledge that when you have begun a good work, you will bring it to a fruitful conclusion, just as you did for your servant Anskar; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40.21-31**

ALLAN THOMSON JUNE PARKER

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Notes on Isaiah 40:21-31.*

*The book of Isaiah comes to us in three parts. The first section reflects on the events which led to the exile of the people of God to Babylon. The second section reflects on the experience of being in exile. The third section focuses on the hope being experienced as the people began to return to the land. This passage contains words of encouragement from the second section of the book. The nation in which people were being held captive seemed powerful. Yet, kingdoms and rulers and empires pass away. God seems to be distant and deaf. Yet, look again at the strength which is holding your hearts together, that inner strength from God which is sustaining you!*

### **PSALM 147.1-11**

1. O praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God:  
and to praise him is joyful and right.

**2. The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem:**

**he is gathering together the scattered outcasts of Israel.**

3. He heals the broken in spirit: and binds up their wounds.

**4. He counts the number of the stars: and calls them all by name.**

5. Great is our Lord, and great is his power:  
there is no measuring his understanding.

**6. The Lord restores the humble: but he brings down the wicked to the dust.**

7. O sing to the Lord a song of thanksgiving:  
sing praises to our God upon the harp.

**8. He covers the heavens with cloud, and prepares rain for the earth:  
and makes the grass to sprout upon the mountains.**

9. He gives the cattle their food:  
and feeds the young ravens that call to him.

**10. He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse:  
nor does he delight in anyone's legs,**

11. But the Lord's delight is in those that fear him:  
who wait in hope for his mercy.

*Notes on Psalm 147:1-11.*

*The psalms cover a multitude of human experiences and emotions. They represent a wide expanse of expression of our lives and our relationships with God and one another. Like the passage from Isaiah 40 this psalm dates from the time of the return from exile. It expresses the hope that people found in returning, not only physically to the land but also into a closer relationship with God, a relationship renewed and deepened because of their experiences in exile. Know for sure, God delights in you! (just not in your legs – see verse 10. That verse is a comment on those who are arrogant because of their own physical strength or prowess).*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*Notes on 1 Corinthians 9:16-23.*

*Paul can often appear arrogant. Even when, as here, he proclaims his humility. Rhetoric (patterns of public speaking) differs between our world and Paul's. His turns of phrase, as translated, have shaped the English language but we do not speak in our day as he did then. It is that which leads to much misunderstanding of what Paul wrote. Here the main focus is on his eagerness to serve God by sharing the good news of Jesus, the invitation into life-giving relationship with God, in any way that he can. He knows that the message is never 'one size fits all'. People of different ages and cultures and backgrounds and situations will hear the message differently. If we want to share God's invitation (and that call is on all of us, not only to Paul) then we need to adapt and immerse ourselves in where people are 'at' to be able to speak genuinely and clearly. Do we do that? It is challenging but possible. With whom do you want to share the invitation of God? Start by seeking to understand them and their world.*

**GOSPEL: MARK 1.29-39**

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he

prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Notes on Mark 1:29-39.*

*This is happening in Capernaum. 'Capher Nahum'. The village of Nahum the prophet. On the far north shore of Lake Galilee. This is the home of several of those who became Jesus' first followers. The synagogue (as later rebuilt) and the house of Simon Peter (possibly) still exist there, both partly in ruins. On a superficial level this seems to be a story about a miracle man, performing healing to gain attention. That was certainly an accusation made against Jesus. But there is far more going on here. Throughout the gospel accounts physical relief from illness or apparent disability is always an invitation to think deeper, to be led into a more comprehensive experience. Wholeness. To be who we have been created to be. Wholeness is what healing is about, what salvation accomplishes, what we are invited to discover and embrace. Jesus went out from Capernaum to proclaim the message. The message was God's invitation to wholeness.*

## **Parish Prayers**

### **The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

#### **In The World: -**

- The Anglican Church of South America
- The Diocese of Bathurst: †Mark Calder; Clergy and People

#### **In The Diocese:**

- The Parish of Buderim: Lucy Morris, Lynette Neil, John Cornish, Montague Morris, Theo Woods
- NQ Townsville Correctional Centre: Ed Spriggins & Neil Bruce
- Canterbury College, Waterford: Principal - Daniel Walker; Chaplain – Dan Talbot; Chair of College Council – Jonathan Waterworth; members of College Council; staff & students

## Pray for those in need:

Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Douglas, Helena, Roy, Williamson Family, Helen, Rev Paul Bland, Joan, Pam, Dorothy, Gary, Rev Karen, Samantha, Ian, Brian, Karen S.

*To add names to this list please contact Sarah in the Parish Office. Names will be kept for two months unless requested to continue. Please let us know of changes in situation for those who we hold in prayer.*

*Please take and use this list in your prayers throughout the week.*

### In Memory

**5th February—11th February**

*May the souls of the faithful departed*

*Rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,**

please use the account details:

BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.

Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

## Notices

**Ash Wednesday.** In preparation for Ash Wednesday palms from last year will be burned after the 9.00am service next week. If you would like your palms to be included please bring them along.

**Lenten Study.** This year we will be using a resource produced by ABM called 'God's Own Country.' If you would like to be part of a study group please let us know through the Parish Office. We will hold an evening group and a daytime group on Wednesdays, at 10.00am and 7.00pm. These will begin on 21 February, the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. If you would like to have a copy of the study to use alone or with a partner/others please also let us know.

**Annual Meeting.** 10.30am on 25 February in the Maheno Room. Nominations for the positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting (Wardens, Parish Councillors, Synod Representatives and alternates and Nominators) close on Sunday 18 February. Please consider prayerfully who should fill these positions and serve our church community for the next year.

<b>THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH</b>			
<b>MONDAY,</b> <i>(NOT WEDNESDAY)</i> <b>THURSDAY AND FRIDAY</b>		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6th	9.30am 7.00pm	Guild AGM Parish Council
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9th	10.00am	Eucharist
<b>SUNDAY</b>	11th	7.30am	Eucharist
		9.00am	Eucharist including Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	14th	10.00am and 6.00pm	Ash Wednesday
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	21st	10.00am and 7.00pm	Lenten Studies begin

<b>ROSTERED DUTIES</b> <b>11/02</b>	<b>7.30AM</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>
<b>L.A.'s</b>	Vanessa	Roland/Sarah
<b>MUSIC</b>	Howard	Howard
<b>READERS</b>	Linda M/Ann	Michael S/Linda P
<b>INTERCESSOR</b>	Felicity	Roland
<b>MORNING TEA</b>		
<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Allan T/Felicity	Michael S/
<b>AUDIO VISUAL</b>	Roslyn	Lisa
<b>FLOWERS</b> Dianne	<b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> Wendy/Sara	

### **Rector**

Reverend Canon Paul Mitchell Mobile 0400411055

Email: [priest@stjohnsbulimba.org](mailto:priest@stjohnsbulimba.org)

### **Associate Clergy**

Reverend Quinn Humphreys Mobile 0403 531 538

Reverend Sharon Mitchell

### **Church Contact**

**Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am to 1.30 pm**

Church Address: 171 Oxford Street, Bulimba

Postal Address: PO Box 271, Bulimba Qld 4171

Telephone: 3399 1508 Email: [office@stjohnsbulimba.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbulimba.org)

**Website: [www.stjohnsbulimba.org](http://www.stjohnsbulimba.org) Follow us on Facebook**

## GOODIES FOR GOODNA

Our support of the Parish of Goodna continues this year and there was a great basket of donations on Sunday. We are all set up for monthly deliveries and our donations are greatly appreciated by those in the Goodna area who struggle, week by week, to feed, house and provide for their families.

Goodna Anglican Welfare Ministry (GAWM) has requested that we continue to donate toiletry items (which are not able to be purchased with their funding) and here is their current list:

**Shampoo; Conditioner; Deodorants (men's and women's); Sanitary pads and tampons; Tissues; Kids Snacks; Toothpaste; Toothbrushes; Shaving Cream.**

They have adequate supplies of toilet paper and nappies but will let me know if needs change. They are also putting together packs of **school supplies (pencils, pens, school stationery; exercise books; pencil cases and backpacks)** and this will be an ongoing need for children starting or changing schools. They are also happy to receive second-hand school supplies like exercise books and pencil cases so if your child had an upgrade this year then please donate any unwanted items.

....