

St John the Baptist Bulimba. 7.30am and 9.00am.



READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

3 March 2024

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.'

Exodus 20.1

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT:

Lord our God, by your Holy Spirit write your commandments upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness, we may become a living temple of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: (*Read on each Sunday in Lent*)

O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey your godly will in righteousness and true holiness; to your honour and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

FIRST READING: EXODUS 20.1-17

JUNE PARKER

LINDA PHILLIPS

1 Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Notes on Exodus 20:1-17

Commandments were common in the ancient world. Most of the cultures of that time had a series of foundational statements and directions which guided their lives and which were held with religious connections, as decreed by 'god'. As with the original understanding of this set of commandments, the sets of guidelines were focussed primarily on the immediate community, their protection and preservation and the ordering of their life, and in particular defining basic expectations of their obedience to and interaction with 'the divine'. So, for example, the injunction not to commit murder would originally have been understood as 'do not murder a member of THIS tribe'. The same with stealing. Such an approach also defined adultery as being a violation only if committed with a member of the tribe. While the

understanding of these commandments had begun to broaden after the exile it was only with Jesus that they are truly made universal. That was one of the shocking things about Jesus' ministry. He broke down barriers of prejudice behind which people hid. People were acting and thinking as if what happened to, or was done to, a 'stranger', a 'foreigner', an 'alien' really didn't matter at all. But it does!

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'command'? Is it something you instinctively obey, resist or consider carefully?*
- 2. Which of the commandments speaks most powerfully to you as a reminder of the call of God to faithfulness in your living?*
- 3. In what circumstances can you recognise that you might exclude anyone (usually different from ourselves in some way) as someone who is not included in our observance of these commandments?*

Psalm 19.

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;*
- ² **One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.***
- ³ There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;*
- ⁴ **Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.***
- ⁵ There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.*
- ⁶ **Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.***
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.*
- ⁸ **The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.***
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.*
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.***
- ¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.*
- ¹² **Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.***

¹³ Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

¹⁴ ***May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.***

Notes on Psalm 19

Most of this psalm could have been read and proclaimed and taken to heart by those who were comfortable in their tribal religion and their 'ownership' of God. Yet the first four verses, especially as we read them now, broaden the context and remind us of the wideness of God's attention in our world. The close and sustaining relationship described through this psalm is not something just for 'us'. It is for everyone.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. How does the natural world, above and around us (what is often understood as 'the heavens'), declare the presence of God to you?*
- 2. What have you learned of the ways in which God calls us to live which has brought delight and order and flourishing to your life (see verses 7 to 11)?*
- 3. Verse 14 invites us to be aware of God in our lives with what we say (the outward expression of our lives) and in what is in our hearts (all that we hold in the core of our being). How has this been an important reminder for you?*

The Second Reading, from 1 Corinthians 1.18-25. TONY RIGBY SARAH DAVIES

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Notes on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Arrogance constipates us in many ways. The idea that we have all the answers, that we have already received the truth, that we are completely self-sufficient in our abilities ... in all of these things we become so bound up by the narrowness of our perspective that we lose the

freedom to live and to see clearly. This is the arrogance which Paul is challenging here. Even for those of us who know that sacrificial love is stronger than any power we may possess; ... even for those of us who know that the essence of life is mystery beyond our capacity to comprehend completely; ... even for those of us who know that our tendency to be selfish, especially when we are fearful and feel threatened in any way, debilitates our intention to live openly and hopefully and compassionately; ... even for us these words speak a warning not to presume that we already 'have it all together'. Humility is the key.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. What is the 'message of the cross' for you? Is it focussed on the 'facts' of what happened? Is it the transformation of the relationship between humanity and God? Is it the example of love? Is it something else?*
- 2. In what way do you recognise that the message we share sounds like 'foolishness'? Is the foolishness the rejection of power and coercion? Is it that love conquers over fear? Is it something else?*
- 3. Different people and different cultural groups may respond in different ways to the message of the Bible. Where have you noticed different responses? What does that suggest about how we are invited to share?*

GOSPEL:

JOHN 2.13-22

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes on John 2:13-22

'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild' is a popular image which in the past was often taught in Sunday Schools. For those immersed deeply in such a perspective, readings such as this one are shocking every time they are encountered. The realisation that Jesus was a deeply political person, a radical stirrer, a fierce opponent of hypocrisy and prejudice and exploitation ... all these aspects of Jesus are deeply shocking. Yet Jesus is passionate and bold and forthright and often extremely controversial. And we are invited to be like him!

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. Is violent behaviour even justified? When and why? How does the fact that Jesus was violent towards property not people influence your response?*
- 2. Where has the Church forgotten this call from Jesus to be focussed more on spiritual life than on finances (remembering that what was actually happening here was the 'money changers' were cheating people)?*
- 3. When have you remembered something which was given new or transformed meaning because of a powerful even in your life?*

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- The Church of the Province of Uganda
- The Diocese of Armidale: †Rod Chiswell; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- The Parish of Gatton with Ma Ma Creek: Jennifer Colbrahams, Imelda O'Loughlin
- Brisbane hospital chaplaincy: Cheryl Selvage & volunteers
- Cannon Hill Anglican College, Cannon Hill: Principal - Gary O'Brien; Chaplain - Br Nathan James; Chair of College Council – Bruce Moy; 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., Robyn, Lionel.

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. 4-10 March

Phyllis Edna Davis (2006) Thora Lucy Walsh (1965) Ellie Cross (2017)

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

Lenten Study. This year we are 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. A group is meeting on Wednesdays, at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Election Day Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall. We need volunteers to set up, cook and serve at our sausage sizzle on Saturday 16th March (7.30 am to about 2.30pm) and on our Cake Stall.

Please start baking, and put your name on the Roster at the back of the church to assist. This is a major fundraiser for us.

THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH			
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
TUESDAY	5th	7.30pm	Parish Council
WEDNESDAY	6th	10.00am & 7.00pm	Lenten Study
FRIDAY	8th	10.00am	Eucharist
SUNDAY	10th	7.30am	Eucharist
		9.00am	Eucharist including Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			
SATURDAY	16th	Election Day	Cake stall and sausage sizzle

ROSTERED DUTIES 10/3	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Vanessa/Robert	Roland/Sarah
MUSIC	Howard	Howard
READERS	TBC	TBC
INTERCESSOR	TBC	TBC
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Felicity/Allan T	Chris&Linda P
AUDIO VISUAL	Roslyn	Michael S
FLOWERS	no flowers in Lent	CHURCH CLEANING Sue/Kym

Rector

Reverend Canon Paul Mitchell Mobile 0400 411 055

Email: priest@stjohnsbulimba.org

Associate Clergy

Reverend Sharon Mitchell

Reverend Greg March 0417 616 256 (*available for spiritual direction*)

Formation Student

Allana Wales

Church Contact

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am to 1.30 pm

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Website: www.stjohnsbulimba.org Follow us on Facebook

GOODIES FOR GOODNA

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.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are desperately in need of volunteers for the following ministries within our church. Contact the Parish Office to volunteer

- AV operators during the 7.30am Sunday service
- Morning Tea volunteers after the 9.00am service for second or third Sundays (you need to put on the urn beforehand and provide milk and biscuits). Nothing fancy needed. Serving from the Maheno Room and washing up afterwards.
- Cleaning our church, can be done on a weekday or Saturday. Dusting and vacuuming about once every 6 weeks, if there are a few more people on roster.