

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



READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10 March 2024

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3.14–15

THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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: NUMBERS 21.4-9 FELICITY SCOTT ROLAND SOWERBY

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ 6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Notes on Numbers 21:4-9

This piece of superstition has an interesting history which both precedes and follows the context in which the story is told. Looking at a symbol for healing (or some other change) is the sort of behaviour in which the Egyptians of that time would have engaged, and so would have been familiar to the people who had been living in Egypt for so long. It also had very strong connections to Greek culture: “The stick is the asklepian, or rod of Asclepius, the god of medicine in ancient Greek religion and mythology. The snake represented rejuvenation because snakes shed and replace their skin.” In early Christianity (building on John 3:14) there was an association drawn between the serpent ‘raised up on a pole’ and Jesus raised up on the cross. Both were identified as a place to look and to be made whole again. The serpent on a pole then also, much later, as a symbol for ‘healing’ was adopted as a crest by many modern medical associations. While a very odd story, it remains as a reminder that when we are weighed down by injury and illness (whether of our own making or those things which come upon us) we are encouraged to look to God as an essential part of our path towards wholeness.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. When faced with serious illness, in yourself or in those closest to you, what are the thoughts, and fears or reassurances, which dominate your mind?*
- 2. Have you ever wondered if serious illness or misfortune was ‘sent by God’, a*

punishment? (This is NOT the main thread or understanding in the Bible, but feeling that way is not unusual).

3. *How quickly do you turn a situation of need into prayer for God's companionship and presence and strength? How do you express that?*

Psalm 107.1-3,17-22.

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
for his loving mercy is for ever.

² ***Let the Lord's redeemed say so:***

whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

³ And gathered in from every land, from the east and from the west:
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ ***Fools were far gone in transgression:***

and because of their sins were afflicted.

¹⁸ They sickened at any food:
and had come to the gates of death.

¹⁹ ***Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:***

and he took them out of their trouble.

²⁰ He sent his word and healed them:
and saved their life from the Pit.

²¹ ***Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:***

and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam;

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving:
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.

Notes on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

We read this psalm today for the echoes of the passage in Numbers (21:4-9). While we are called to attend to God, to pay attention when we are in need, there is the danger that this may be the only time when we direct our attention to God! Find balance!

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. What does 'goodness' mean to you?*
- 2. What would you expect to see in someone who is 'good'? If you consider yourself 'good', or aspire to be, how is that expressed in your life?*
- 3. When have you celebrated 'with shouts of joy' the action and presence of God in your life?*

The Second Reading, from Ephesians 2.1-10. VANESSA LINDA PHILLIPS

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived,

following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Notes on Ephesians 2:1-10

It is a part of any real and mature Christian journey to recognise that we find life through grace, through the gift of God, not through our own efforts or worthiness or anything which we do to 'earn' being whole and blessed. For some people that may be the realisation which turns their lives around. For others the life changing moment will come with the overwhelming recognition of being loved, within which we find the capacity for honesty and deep reflection. The two truths are wound together. We are deeply loved and we are made whole in and through God, as an act of love by God.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. What have you done in your life (or not done which you know was actually best to do) which has damaged you, even to the point of feeling 'dead'? (Recognise but do not dwell on staying in that place!)*
- 2. How were you set free? Did it come as a direct connection with God, through the words of someone who shared hope and love with you, or in some other way?*
- 3. How does it affect your living to recognise that your life, and wholeness, and freedom, are all the gift of God?*

GOSPEL:

JOHN 3:14-21

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the

light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes on John 3:14-21

Simple statements are good for grabbing our attention, especially when they do not answer completely any question we may have. For many years it has been popular at large sporting and other events to hold aloft signs which simply say "John 3:16". We have this verse in today's passage. It is a statement of love and an invitation to response and a declaration of how it is that God connects with and intervenes in our world. It is a beginning, a beginning which invites a rich and robust conversation about life.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. 'God loved the world SO MUCH' Who do you love so much that you will do whatever you can for them to flourish?*
- 2. Judgement is about discerning, finding clarity and truth. Condemning is about putting down, punishing. How does it affect the way in which you see God to recognise that God judges but does not condemn?*
- 3. What does it mean to you to live in the light?*

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- The Episcopal Church
- Ministry to the Defence Force: †Grant Dibden; Chaplains & Members of the Defence Force

In The Diocese:

- The Parish of Green Hills Anglicans: Bruce Boase
- Christ Church Caring Ministries, Bundaberg
- St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregian Springs: Principal - Chris Ivey; Chaplain - Gary McClellan; Chair of College Council - Rosalyn Cheales; members of College Council; staff & students

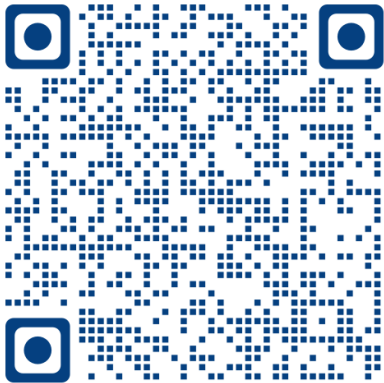
Pray for those in need:

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. 11-17 March

Jack Thurlow Craswell (1962)

Joan Nell Hazell (2016)



To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,

please use the account details:

BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.

Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH			
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
TUESDAY	12 th	8.45am 10.00am	Guild Meeting Morning Tea followed by Hoy
WEDNESDAY	13 th	10.00am & 7.00pm	Lenten Study
FRIDAY	15 th	10.00am	Eucharist
SATURDAY	16 th	7.30am- 2.30pm	Election Day Cake Stall & Sausage Sizzle
SUNDAY	17 th	7.30am 9.00am	Eucharist Eucharist including Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			
SATURDAY	23 rd	9.00am	Decorating the Church for Palm Sunday
PALM SUNDAY	24 th	7.30am 9.00am 2.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist including Children's Church Peace March (beginning at New Hope Baptist)

MAUNDY THURSDAY	28th	6.00pm	Agape Meal and Vigil
GOOD FRIDAY	29th	10.00am 3.00pm	Solemn Prayers Stations of the Cross (and afternoon tea/Hot Cross Buns)
EASTER EVE	30th	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist
EASTER DAY	31st	6.00am 7.30am 9.00am	Ecumenical Prayers (at Riverside Park) Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist including Children's Church

ROSTERED DUTIES FOR 17/03	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Allan/Tony	Sarah/Donovan
MUSIC	Alan C	Howard
READERS	Linda M/Vanessa	Sarah/Donovan
INTERCESSOR	June	Roland
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Laurie	Steve
AUDIO VISUAL	Volunteer	Lisa
FLOWERS no flowers in lent	CHURCH CLEANING Sue/Kym	

Notices

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. There are three shifts for the Sausage Sizzle.

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.

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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Postal Address: PO Box 271, Bulimba Qld 4171

Telephone: 3399 1508 Email: office@stjohnsbulimba.org

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.