

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



READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

17 March 2024

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

‘This is the covenant I will make with them,’ says the Lord God: ‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.’ *Jeremiah 31.33*

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

O God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope: renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; 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: JEREMIAH 31:31-34. LINDA MITCHELL / SARAH DAVIES

..³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord : I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Notes on Jeremiah 31:31-34

One of the key elements of leadership is to find ways in which a group, community or organisation can 'own' a future direction. If any way forward, vision statement, policy change or development is imposed from above then it is more likely to meet resistance. If it comes as something which is 'owned' by the people of the community, and preferably formed and shaped by and out of the experience of the members of that community, then it will be more grounded, met with deeper involvement and lead to a more integrated engagement.

From a simple reading it may sound as if this 'new covenant' is something which is being imposed. However it is presented by the prophet in this time, the time of longing for the pattern of the past to be overturned, as an expression of the longing of both the hearts of the people and the heart of God. The new covenant is more intimate than institutional, more personal than proscriptive, more 'family' than formality. What Jeremiah prophesied we find in Jesus.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. Have you ever entered into agreements to which 'lip service' was paid, something which was not honoured? What effect did that have on relationships between the people in the agreement?*
- 2. How does holding an agreement, a commitment, in your heart change how you carry it, how it is expressed?*
- 3. Is there anyone in your life who is judged harshly by others, because they only see their faults and what is on the surface, yet you see them more deeply and recognise that they are more valuable than the worst of what they have done? How does that touch on how you recognise God sees you?*

Psalm 119:9-16.

⁹ How shall the young keep their path pure:
unless they hold to your word?

**¹⁰ I have sought you with my whole heart:
let me not stray from your commandments.**

¹¹ I have treasured your words in my heart:
that I might not sin against you.

**¹² Blessed are you, Lord God:
O teach me your statutes.**

¹³ With my lips I have been telling:
all the judgements of your mouth;

**¹⁴ And I find more joy in the way of your commands:
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts:
and give heed to your ways;

**¹⁶ For my delight is wholly in your statutes:
and I will not forget your word.**

Notes on Psalm 119:9-16.

Read Matthew 19 and the encounter between Jesus and the rich young man, then read this portion of the psalms again. Each passage brings light to the other. We find light by listening to God and following the ways which God gives which give guidance to our lives. We are enlightened when this becomes not only what we do but who we are.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. In your life, when did you begin reflecting on the invitation God makes to live in ways which are loving, respectful and life-giving?*
- 2. When asked why you live in the way that you do (being compassionate, respectful, open, loving) what do you say?*
- 3. Have you ever meditated on what you recognise as the calls of God on your life, sat with those 'commands' and reflected deeply, opened your mind to how this call touches you and your thoughts and actions? Try it.*

The Second Reading, from Hebrews 5:5-14. VANESSA HANLON / DONOVAN SPARKS

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; ⁶ as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. ¹¹ About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness.

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

Notes on Hebrews 5:5-14.

Melchizedek, who appears in the Old Testament in Genesis 14:18, then referenced in Psalm 110:4, was also identified as the 'King of Salem'. The name and title together make him king of righteousness and king of peace. The location of his kingdom (during the time of Abram) may have been what is now Jerusalem. In the story in Genesis he brings bread and wine to Abram. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews takes this somewhat obscure reference and makes the connection with Jesus. We will see immediately the connections with peace, righteousness, Jerusalem and the bread and wine. Psalm 110:4, which is quoted at the end of verse 6 in this passage, refers to David, adding another layer to the identification of Jesus as a 'descendant of David'. The letter to the Hebrews is essentially a long series of connections designed to show that every prophecy, every theme, every action of God in the narrative already known to the Jewish people is fulfilled in Jesus, the righteous one, the prince of peace, the son of God.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. When have you learned through reflecting on a difficult time, a time of suffering, in your life?*
- 2. What difference does it make to you, when you are struggling, to remember that Jesus went through human suffering and challenges?*
- 3. When did you move from milk to solid food in your faith journey? When did you begin to grasp and seek and explore the Bible and the faith and the life of the Church actively?*

GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me

from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ ³⁰ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.’ ³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes on John 12:20-33.

There are three key times when a ‘voice from heaven’ proclaims blessing on Jesus. At his baptism, on the mountain of transfiguration, and here in this passage. Each is a time of transition in Jesus’ ministry. At his baptism Jesus moved from the life he had been living up to that point into his public ministry, speaking and sharing the good news. On the mountain of transfiguration Jesus was revealed as he truly is, and his journey in ministry begins to be directed towards Jerusalem. While this passage includes the focus towards Jerusalem it also contains the significant element of the good news bursting out of a Jewish context into the world around. Greeks came to see Jesus. What had been perhaps seen by some as a revitalisation of the covenant between God and the Jews was exposed as renewal for ALL people.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. Who have you met who has wanted to ‘see Jesus’, to know more about God? How did you respond?*
- 2. ‘Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth ...’ In your life where have some things which were valued needed to be let go and seemingly to ‘die’ so that something new could ‘be born’?*
- 3. In your life what has been the connection between knowing God and serving God?*

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- The Church in Wales
- The Diocese of the Northern Territory: †Greg Anderson; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- The Parish of Inala: Jonathan Brook, Bev Bell, Bob Walsh, Lindsay Howie, Alex Gater
- Congregations in communion with the Anglican Church
- The Southport School, Southport: Headmaster - Andrew Hawkins; Chaplain - John Dougherty; Chair of School Council – Adam Twemlow; members of School 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, Yvonne.

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. 18th March—24th March

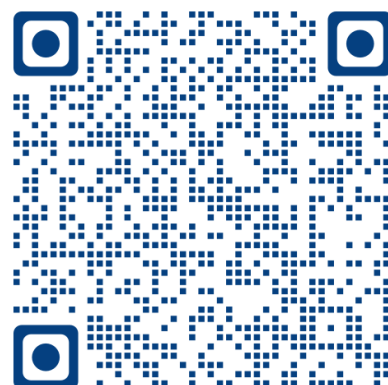
Daphne Violet Kirby (2021) Guinevere Kay Blaikie (2015) Thomas Walter Nugent (1985)

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THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH			
MON, WED AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY	20th	9.30am-11.30am	Knitting Circle
		10.00am & 7.00pm	Lenten Study
		11.00am	Service at Regis Care
FRIDAY	22nd	10.00am	Eucharist
SATURDAY	23rd	9.00am	Decorating the Church for Palm Sunday
PALM SUNDAY	24th	7.30am	Eucharist. <i>Bring crosses to bless.</i>
		9.00am	Eucharist including Children's Church
		2.00pm	Peace March (beginning at New Hope Baptist)
<i>Advance notice</i>			
MAUNDY THURSDAY	28th	6.00pm	Agape Meal and Vigil
GOOD FRIDAY	29th	10.00am	Solemn Prayers
		3.00pm	Stations of the Cross (and afternoon tea/Hot Cross Buns)

EASTER EVE	30th	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist BRING BELLS! 
EASTER DAY	31st	6.00am 7.30am 9.00am	Ecumenical Prayers (at Riverside Park)  Sung Eucharist. BRING BELLS! Sung Eucharist including Children's Church. BRING BELLS! 

ROSTERED DUTIES FOR 24/03	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Roslyn/Allana	Roland/Charmaine
MUSIC	Wendy	Howard
READERS	AllanT/Ann	Swanson Family/Sarah
INTERCESSOR	Allana	Swanson Family
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Allan T/Sue G	Michael S
AUDIO VISUAL	Allan T	Alan 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

Notices.

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.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

We will be decorating the church with palms on Saturday 23rd March from 9.00 – 10.00am . Please would you cut and bring any palm leaves which you can find (large and small) and some string and scissors and we will make our church look like a palm grove!

AGAPE MEAL ON MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Thursday 28th of March we will be holding an Agape Meal as part of our Maundy Thursday evening service at 6.00pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in church so that you can elect what you would like to bring and how many of you will be attending. The meal and service will be in the Maheno Room and then we will move to the church for the vigil. We can let you know how many you are catering for when we have the numbers attending.