

St John the Baptist Bulimba.



READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21 April 2024

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘I know my own and my own know me.’
John 10.14

THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: help us when we hear his voice to know him who calls us each by name, and to follow where he leads; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

READING FROM Acts 4:5-12.

Linda Mitchell Roland Sowerby

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

Notes on Acts 4:5-12.

In Holy Week we read the confrontations between Jesus and the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem. Those encounters should ring in our minds as we read, in these early chapters of Acts, the confrontations between the early disciples and those same leaders. These were the same people who had condemned Jesus. So, when Peter says, about Jesus “the stone that was rejected by you” he literally means YOU, those who I am talking to, not a generalized criticism of the Jewish people. Those same people were aware of what had been done directly by Jesus. Now they were being challenged by the ministry being offered ‘in his name’.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. How aware are you of the accusations which have been made down the ages that ‘the Jews killed Jesus’? When and how did you realise that this was actually a false accusation?*
- 2. Have you ever been accused of something which you did not do, or blamed for something done by a member of your family, an ancestor, a member of a group with which you identify? How did you feel about that prejudice?*
- 3. Consider how important it is to separate blame between those who are responsible and others who become caught up by association. How does this still happen today?*

Psalm 23 (sung).

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.*
- 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:*

and lead me beside still waters.

3 He will refresh my soul:

and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me

in the face of those who trouble me:

you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness

will follow me all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Notes on Psalm 23.

This much loved and best known Psalm is used in a myriad of ways. It is requested for baptisms, weddings and funerals! The message of God's constant companionship throughout the highs and lows of life resonates with many people, even those who struggle to connect with church communities.

The setting we use today was written in Queensland and was used as the theme music for 'The Vicar of Dibley'.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. When did you first hear the 23rd Psalm? What impression did it make on you?*
- 2. Have you experienced the presence of God at both the highs AND the lows of life? How does it feel to have a constant companion?*
- 3. Would you like to have the 23rd Psalm sung at your funeral (the version we will sing or the other well-known version, CRIMOND)? If so, why? If not, why not?*

The Second Reading, from the New Testament, 1 John 3:16-24.

Vanessa Hanlon

Donovan Sparks

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than

our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Notes on 1 John 3:16-24.

The resonating message from this passage is that we are to live by example. That can be easy. It can also be deeply challenging and confronting. These letters of John were written to communities which were struggling with the public experience of being a follower of Christ. To show faith in action brought ridicule, condemnation and persecution.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. What does it mean to you to 'follow Christ'?*
- 2. What are the ways in which Jesus cared for and showed love to others which you have found possible to do?*
- 3. What have been the ways with which you have struggled? How have you dealt with that in your life?*

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-18 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.' **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Notes on John 10:11-18.

The shepherd is an enduring image of God deeply embedded in the Biblical stories. The imagery of those who have abandoned a responsibility to care for the sheep has a long history as well (see Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23). This passage

has many deep connections and images to which we as the Church have not always paid heed. The responsibility to take care of those entrusted into the fold is paramount. Yet it has not always happened. The deep intimate connection between those placed in positions of responsibility and the flock has not always been nurtured. The invitation to that level of intimacy with God has not always been at the heart of the invitation we make into the life of the Church. The humility to recognize that there are 'other sheep' flocks with which God connects beyond our flock, has often been ignored. It is very likely that this means more than the fact that God cares for congregations beyond ours, other parts of the Church beyond ours, other denominations beyond ours. It can be heard as a recognition that God has deep loving connections with other 'flocks' beyond the Church.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. How do you feel about being called a sheep? Does that feel comforting or as an insult? Why?*
- 2. How have you cared for anyone for whom you have been responsible? Has it echoed the care in this passage at all?*
- 3. What might it mean in your understanding and approach to people of other faiths or no expressed faith to wonder if God has a connection to them beyond your understanding and imagining?*

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- The Anglican Church of Australia
- The Diocese of Riverina: †Donald Kirk; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- The Parish of Oakey: David Snape – Missioner Locum
- St John's Home for Aged Men – Toowong
- All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac: Headmaster - Patrick Wallas;
- Chaplain - Ann McGuinness; Chair of School Council - John Fradgley;
- 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, 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. April 22 to April 28

Diane Catherine Puodziunas (1988) Matt Puodziunas (1988)

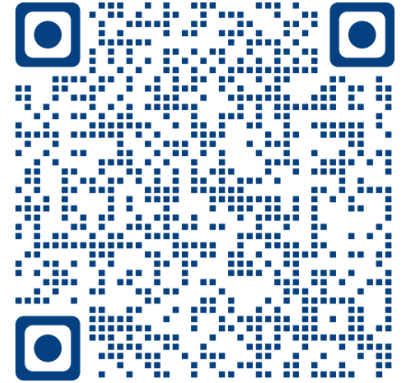
Derek Bryan Parker (1999)

Ernest Edmund Ganly (1968) Susan Tyler (2009) Dr. Alexander Horner (2007)

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THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH			
MON, WED AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
FRIDAY	26th	10.00am	Eucharist
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	28th	7.30am	Sung Eucharist
		9.00am	Sung Eucharist and Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			
SUNDAY	28 th	9.00-noon	Cake Stall

ROSTERED DUTIES FOR 28/4	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Roslyn/Felicity	Roland/Charmaine
MUSIC	Robert	Wendy
READERS	Tony/Ann	Swanson Family
INTERCESSOR	Linda M	Swanson Family
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Allan T/Sue G	Michael S
AUDIO VISUAL	Allan T	Alan S
FLOWERS Sara	CHURCH CLEANING Barbara	

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 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.

AN EVENING OF HEAVENLY MUSIC

We presents a choral concert featuring local Queensland opera performers Sebastian Maclaine and Ashleigh Crane, presenting a selection of choral and popular music, and accompanied by John Woods

The concert will be held on Saturday 27th April at 7.00pm in the Church, A glass of sparkling wine and canapes will be served during the interval.

Tickets \$40.00 can be purchased via our website, stjohnsbulimba.org or at the door. The Eventbrite Link is

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sebastian-maclaine-and-ashleigh-crane-a-musical-evening-in-aid-of-abm-appeal-for-al-ahli-hospital-tickets-876292152417>

Proceeds from the concert will go to the ABM appeal for the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The Al-Ahli Hospital was built by ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) over 140 years ago to provide medical care to the people of the Holy Land. Funds raised will provide vital medical supplies and assistance to the people of Gaza.



Sebastian Maclaine has had a wide variety of musical experiences, including singing with the popular Australian touring and recording group, The Ten Tenors. With the group, Sebastian has performed extensively in 16 countries and recorded several albums.

In 2021, he performed with Opera Queensland (OQ) in their schools touring productions. In 2022, he joined the OQ Young Artist Program and

performed the role of Gastone in *La Traviata*. He also appeared in the Lisa Gasteen National Opera Program double bill as Bastian in *Der Häusliche Krieg* by Schubert and as Adolph in *Die Opernprobe* by Lortzing. This year he performed as the tenor soloist in four Bach cantatas with Ensemble Correspondances at the Royal Chapel of Versailles and will appear as Aeneas in Opera Queensland's production of *Dido and Aeneas*.



Ashleigh Crane began working with Opera Queensland in 2012 as a member of the chorus and a principal artist. She sang the roles of Adina in a touring adaptation of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and Rosina in a touring adaptation of Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

In 2016 she travelled abroad and became a member of *Theater für Niedersachsen* and *Opera Mobile*. Upon her return to Australia in 2020, Ashleigh has continued her work with Opera Queensland and Underground Opera Company, and appeared as soprano soloist at the Rangebow Festival in 2023.



John Woods has worked with some of the finest singers of the present generation including Joan Rodgers, Amanda Roocroft, SimonKeenlyside and in particular, Jane Eaglen. In Australia he has appeared in concert with Lisa Gasteen, Jeffrey Black, Joanna Cole and Rosario la Spina.

He also works for Opera Queensland's Young and Developing Artists Program.

Inclusion Project

We are hosting a project to connect isolated elderly people with young people (initiated by a student at CHAC). It will be held in the Maheno Room on Friday late afternoons from 3 May. If you, or someone you know, would be interested please speak to Paul TODAY.