

St John the Baptist Bulimba.



Contemplating God (Photo by Carol M. Bechtel)

READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28 April 2024

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. *1 John 4.10–11*

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading, from the New Testament, Acts 8:26-40.

Tony Rigby Swanson Family

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.)

²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ³¹ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.’³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’ ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Notes on Acts 8:26-40.

The links between Ethiopia and the Holy Land go back to the time of Solomon and so it is not surprising to find an Ethiopian official travelling in this way. Ethiopia is also recorded as one of the earliest parts of the world where the good news began to take root among communities of people. Perhaps initially this official shared what he had learned. Certainly early generations of Christians went to that land and shared what they had found in Jesus. Through the words we find in the Bible, through relationships, through even random conversations ... God prepares a way.

Questions to take into your week:

1. How often do you allow space for God to speak to you?

2. *Which passages in the Bible puzzle you?*
3. *Who helps you to find clarity?*

Psalm 22.26-32.

26. From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

***27. The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him -
may their hearts rejoice for ever!***

28. Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

***29. For the kingdom is the Lord's:
and he shall be ruler over the nations.***

30. How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:
or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

***31. But he has saved my life for himself:
and my posterity shall serve him.***

32. This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:
and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Notes on Psalm 22:26-32.

Remember that this is the psalm which begins with a sense of being abandoned and separated from God. But we need to read the whole psalm. Even when we find ourselves in the darkest place this is a psalm which reminds us to persevere, to look for the dawn, to seek light.

Questions to take into your week:

1. *When have you moved from a feeling of being abandoned to the wonder of being loved and embraced?*
2. *How do you balance the personal sense of being loved and the recognition that God loves ALL of us?*
3. *How have you passed on God's love to the next generation?*

The Second Reading, from the New Testament, 1 John 4:7-21.

Ann Winfield Swanson Family

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only

Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Notes on 1 John 4:7-21.

Love. If we distil the message of the good news to one word it is love. God's love for us. That mind-blowing love transforms us and is the template for our love towards one another. It is as simple and as complex as that. As Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA often says: "If it's not about love then it's not about God."

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. When have you been afraid to love?*
- 2. How has being loved flowed through you to loving others?*
- 3. How have you overcome the tendency to limit loving only to those with whom you agree?*

GOSPEL: JOHN 15.1-8. Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not

abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes on John 15:1-8.

This passage draws us deeper into the intimacy of the connection we have with God in Jesus. As a metaphor it is something with which to sit and allow the depth to transform us. Our connection is really beyond words. It is something more felt than comprehended. Sit with the image. Feel love flowing into you.

Questions to take into your week:

- 1. When have you felt deeply being part of 'the vine', nourished and connected? How does that feel?*
- 2. When have you felt 'cut off' or hanging on by a tiny tendril? How was that connection opened up again?*
- 3. When might you have needed some pruning of aspects of your own life, to enable you to flourish?*

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- The Church of Bangladesh

In The Diocese:

- The Parish of Roma:
- Anglicare SQ Remote and Rural Community Services

Pray for those in need:

Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Douglas, Helena, Roy, Helen, Joan, Pam, Dorothy, Lionel, Rev Shane Hubner.

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 29 to May 5

Sebastian Duke Decimas Bossom (2010) James Desmond Hughes (2018)
 Constance Laura Mason (1992) Jessie May Salter (1962)
 William Douglas Daunton (1999) Alexander William Todkill (2001)

THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH			
MON, WED, THURS AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	
WEDNESDAY	1 st	6.30pm	Parish Council
FRIDAY	3 rd	10.00am 3.15am	Eucharist Social Inclusion project. First Gathering.
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	5 th	7.30am 9.00am	Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist and Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			

ROSTERED DUTIES FOR 5/5	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Roslyn/Tony	Howard/Roland
MUSIC	Alan	Robert
READERS	June/Linda M	Linda P/Sarah
INTERCESSOR	Allan	Roland
MORNING TEA	Dianne and Jenny	
WELCOMERS	Bob & Glenda	Lisa
AUDIO VISUAL	Volunteer	Joanna

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

Church Address: 171 Oxford Street, Bulimba

Postal Address: PO Box 271, Bulimba Qld 4171

Telephone: 3399 1508 Email: office@stjohnsbulimba.org

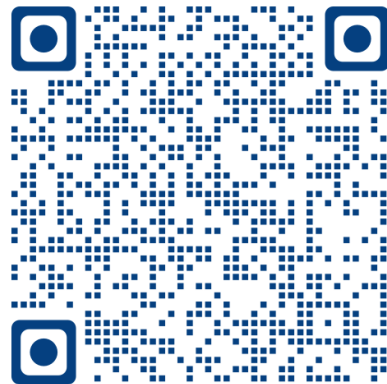
Website: www.stjohnsbulimba.org Follow us on Facebook

To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,

please use the account details:

BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.

Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish



Please use the QR code to make a donation to the life of the church community here.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Notices

DONATIONS OF KNITTING AND CROCHET TO THE MATER

Our wonderful Knitting Group ladies have been working away making rugs for patients in oncology (who are often cold and in need of extra warmth) and beanies for the premature babies in the ICU unit. In the last two months they have sent donations of 9 crocheted rugs and 67 beanies; an amazing achievement and warmly welcomed by patients and their families.

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, Cans of Chunky Soups and packet soups.

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.

Now that the weather is cooling, Canned Chunky Soups and Packet soups are very welcome. These are a meal for someone so the heartier the better!

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.