

# St John the Baptist Bulimba.



## **READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

5 May 2024

### **SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:**

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

*John 15.16*

### **THE COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:**

Loving God, your Son has chosen us and called us to be his friends: give us grace to keep his commandments, to love one another, and to bear fruit which will abide; through him who is the true vine, the source of all our life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## READING FROM Acts 10:44-48.

June Parker Linda Phillips

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Notes on Acts 10:44-48.*

*One of the things which is well attested in the early Church is that coming into close connection with God and responding brought about significant changes in the lives of many people. There were simple and uneducated people who grasped cosmic truths and were able to share them in language which those around them understood (which is one way of explaining ‘speaking in tongues’). There were people who realised that they were at turning points in their lives and made positive choices which rippled into their words and actions and relationships and their journeys from that day onwards. This happens still! Baptism is and has always been a response to the working of God in our lives and celebration of that deep connection, with overflowing joy!*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Have you ever had such a powerful encounter with God that it could be described in words like those in this passage? \*\*\* It is important to recognise that not everyone has experiences in this way.*
- 2. What was your experience of God which has led to you being here in a church community?*
- 3. Whatever your experiences, how do you describe the ongoing presence and impact of God in your life?*

## ***Psalm 98.***

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song:

for he has done marvellous things;

<sup>2</sup> ***His right hand and his holy arm:***

***they have got him the victory.***

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has made known his salvation:

he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

<sup>4</sup> ***He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel:  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.***

- <sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:  
break into singing and make melody.
- <sup>6</sup> ***Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:  
upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.***
- <sup>7</sup> With trumpets and with horns:  
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.
- <sup>8</sup> ***Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:  
the good earth and those who live upon it.***
- <sup>9</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands:  
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;
- <sup>10</sup> ***For he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.***

*Notes on Psalm 98.*

*We do not know when this psalm was written. Overall, the Psalms are attributed to King David, though some have other dedications or connections. MANY were clearly written or adapted for the time after the people returned from exile. But we do not know the timing of this psalm. Yet it has enduring relevance and use. That is because there are SO MANY times and ways in which we celebrate and give thanks for the place of God in our lives and the ways in which we are blessed by God. For thousands of years people have been reading and singing and sharing this psalm as a celebration of being blessed and recognition that this blessing comes from God.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. What marvellous things has God done in your life?*
- 2. How do you celebrate them? In song? With trumpets? In faithful service?*
- 3. How do you see creation, the world around us, as a celebration of God's beauty and mystery and love?*

***The Second Reading, from the New Testament, 1 John 5:1-12.***

Linda Mitchell Sarah Davies

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the

blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> There are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. <sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*Notes on 1 John 5:1-12.*

*There are times when we complicate things too much. Here are also times when what we say and write is so clearly in the context of our time that the events surrounding us affect significantly and may even cloud our words. The letters of John were written at a time of great conflict and when the Church was being attacked in many ways. In response the letters of John share a message of love in ways which sometimes sound unloving and polemical. At their heart though there is the consistent message to look at love, as we experience that love in and through Jesus, and there we will find both God and life.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Birth begins with a seed sown, a seed which finds a fertile place in which to grow. Relationship with God, recognising Christ, is a such a seed. How was that seed planted in you?*
- 2. How have you nurtured and fed that seed so that it has continued to grow?*
- 3. How has that love of God, impregnated in you, transformed your living and especially your life in relationship to other people?*

**GOSPEL: JOHN 15.9-17                      Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever

you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Notes on John 15:9-17.*

*Being wrapped in love is a wonderful thing! We feel warm and secure and safe and cherished and valuable and a myriad of other positive emotions. We recognise ourselves as people who are worth loving and worth attention. This passage celebrates that but it also adds a vital next step. Being loved leads us to love. The experience of being loved, if it is truly celebrated and lived in us then flows through us. The highest way of celebrating being loved is to love. The 'commandments' were not rules and orders. They were an invitation to be transformed by absorbing a way of living and being into the heart of who we are. This is what it means to be infused with this 'new commandment'.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Living water is among the images for God's love poured out for us. Using this image, how is God's love water for you? Is it a well on which you draw and drink? Is it a stream which flows to you and a pool in which you are washed and cleansed and renewed? Is it a wave which sometimes overwhelms you and even tumbles you over at times? Is it a stream which flows through you, both received and also shared?*
- 2. For whom would you 'lay down your life'? Sit with that thought and reflect on who and why, and where the boundaries of that preparedness for sacrifice lie in you.*
- 3. How deeply do you recognise that the choice of your connection with God is God's choice of you, God's invitation to you? Sit with that recognition and reflect on what God loving and choosing YOU means.*

## **Parish Prayers**

### **The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

#### **In The World: -**

- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- The Diocese of Ballarat: †Garry Weatherill; Clergy and People

#### **In The Diocese:**

- The Parish of Springfield: Charlie Lacey, Trevor Adams, Stacey McCowan, Penny Howchin
- Brisbane Correctional Centre: Kevin Bell
- Coomera Anglican College, Coomera: Principal – Patrick Innes-Hill; Chaplain - Vacant; Lay Chaplaincy Team: Dom Fay and Rachael Stelzer; Chair of School Council – Mary-Anne Rulfs; members of College Council; staff & students

**Pray for those in need:**

Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Douglas, Helena, Roy, Helen, Joan, Pam C, Pam G, Dorothy, Rev Shane Hubner, Karen S.

*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. May 6 to May 12**

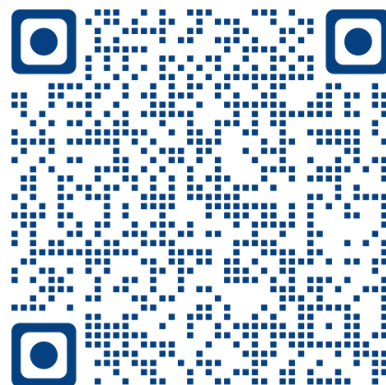
Laura Martinez (2019) Henry Fletcher (1943) Elva Gillas (2008)  
Lancelot Michael Walsh (2006) Elsie Ellen Humphrey (2008)

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Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish



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**THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH**

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MON, WED, THURS AND FRIDAY		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
FRIDAY	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Eucharist
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am	Sung Eucharist
		9.00am	Sung Eucharist and Children's Church

ROSTERED DUTIES FOR 12/5	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Vanessa/Robert	Roland/Sarah
MUSIC	Howard	Howard
READERS	Felicity/Bradán	Michael S/Linda P
INTERCESSOR	Robert	Sarah
MORNING TEA	Cathy and Barbara	

<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Felicity/Allan	Steve
<b>AUDIO VISUAL</b>	Roslyn	Lisa
<b>FLOWERS</b> Caroline	<b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> Sue/Kym	

### **Rector**

Reverend Canon Paul Mitchell Mobile 0400 411 055

Email: [priest@stjohnsbulimba.org](mailto: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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## **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, also required are 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!

## CAKE STALL

Last week's Cake Stall raised \$872, a very good result after a busy day with the Concert on Saturday. Thank you to Dianne, Glenda and Bob, Allan and all our bakers.

## 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.

## CONCERT FUNDRAISING

The Evening of Heavenly Music was spellbinding and Sebastian, Ashleigh and John gave a wonderful performance and 60 people attended, both from our church and from the wider community.

Thank you to all who assisted, including those who cooked and served. We raised \$2525 for ABM and the Al-Ahli Hospital.

## Called to Ministry.

Everyone who is baptised is a minister of Christ. We each need to listen and pray and discover how that ministry is expressed. Most often it will be in ways well beyond the church building and the gathering of the community. We gather to worship God and to be nourished and supported for our ministry across the rest of the week.

When we gather there are also many ways of sharing our gifts when we do gather. Playing music, leading singing, driving the AV system, welcoming at the door, preparing the pew bulletins, cleaning and maintaining the space in which we meet, preparing and sharing hospitality, caring for and teaching children ... and more.

On Saturday 18 May at 2.00pm a session will be held (meeting in the church building) for those who *read the readings, prepare and lead intercessions* and *assist with services* (LAs). This is for all those who currently share in those roles AND for those who would like to offer to share (or to explore) those ministries. Please speak to Paul or simply come along!

If you would like to explore other ministries please also speak to Paul and explore how God is inviting you to develop and share the gifts with which you have been blessed.