

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



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## READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

25 February 2024

### SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. *Mark 8.34*

## THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT:

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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: GENESIS 17.1-7,15-16 Ann Winfield    Tony Rigby

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

### *Notes on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16.*

*We are blessed with a succession of covenants. We could see them as a series of renewed contracts but if we do we need to acknowledge that any responsible owner or landlord or employer would be seriously disturbed if the lessor or employee continually flouted the contract and acted in ways which were contrary to what had been agreed, and which were mutually damaging to all involved. That is what humanity has done in response to the succession of covenants. Yet God never gives up on us. Each covenant, all the way through to the new covenant in Jesus, is a gift of overflowing and increasing love from God.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Have you ever had any sense of a 'covenant' with God, an agreement struck, a sense of God's promise in your life? What was it like to hold onto the sense that God blesses you and has a purpose for you?*
- 2. Abraham and Sarah were to see the promise of God rippling down through generations. How has the presence of God in your life been shared with those who have been part of your life (whether or not there are signs at the moment that they have listened)?*
- 3. Have you ever changed your name, or been known by another name? Why? What might it be like to be given a new name ... by God!?*

*Psalm 22:24-32.*

<sup>24</sup> O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:

hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob,

and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.

**<sup>25</sup> For he has not despised nor abhorred**

**the poor man in his misery:**

**nor did he hide his face from him,**

**but heard him when he cried.**

<sup>26</sup> From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

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

**<sup>27</sup> 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!**

<sup>28</sup> Let all the ends of the earth remember

and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

**<sup>29</sup> For the kingdom is the Lord's:**

**and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

<sup>30</sup> How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

**<sup>31</sup> But he has saved my life for himself:**

**and my posterity shall serve him.**

<sup>32</sup> 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 22:24-32*

*This psalm is an acknowledgement of God's abundant and persistent mercy. It is astonishing, when we consider with honesty and clarity of sight, how the mercy of God reaches out again and again despite how many times and how far we fall.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. The word translated here as 'fear' (verse 1) does NOT mean to be afraid. It would be better translated as 'respect and awe and wonder'. Are you afraid of God, or do you hold God in respect and awe and wonder? What difference is there between those two positions?*
- 2. Verse 26 suggests that the relationship we have with God should bubble up and be seen. If praising God were a crime would there be enough evidence to convict you?*
- 3. What has God done in your life which you would want a future generation to know, to remember and to celebrate?*

The Second Reading, from Romans 4. 13-25. June Parker Sarah Davies

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*Notes on Romans 4:13-25*

*Keeping the rules is never enough. Making sure that we obey all the laws is never enough. Because if we fail to keep even one then the whole of that pattern of self-justification and the 'work' of obedience is lost. Love and grace triumph over any effort that we or anyone can possibly make to 'earn' God's approval or attention.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Focus on law and rules can blind and disturb us. God is more like a musician, a playwright, a poet, an artist than a lawyer. What difference does that suggestion make to how you read the Bible?*
- 2. Abraham and Sarah were blessed with a miracle which gave birth in them to hope. Where have you been blessed with hope, hope which has sustained you?*
- 3. Righteousness is an evocative word. It is not about doing the 'right' things but being open to relationships in the 'right' way, a life-giving way. How is righteousness expressed in your life?*

**GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-9**

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Notes on Mark 9:2-9*

*This is a startling glimpse of the future. Jesus is seen as he is eternally, not just as the dusty teacher who has been their companion. Jesus is seen as the one who brings together all of the known history of the people, not just as a man from the out of the way village of Nazareth.*

*Questions to take into your week:*

- 1. Why might Jesus have shared this extraordinary experience with just a few? We can meet God in public, crowded places. Where has God been present to you in intimate, personal moments?*
- 2. Elijah and Moses are symbols of the wisdom and the faithfulness of the past. Who across the history of the people of faith has witnessed to you in ways which have brought life to your faith? (Saints and spiritual writers may come to mind).*
- 3. There are places where we read what are written as harsh words in the Bible. Here we hear the more usual voice of God. **You are blessed. You are loved.** What effect does it have on your life to remember (and hold onto) every day that these words are spoken by God to YOU?*

## **Parish Prayers**

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

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

- The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- The Diocese of The Murray: †Keith Dalby and Administrator; Clergy and People

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

- The Parish of Drayton: Rick Gummow, Dorothy Daniels, Richard Penny,
- Des Potter, Ross Ellwood
- Anglicare SQ Community Aged & Disability, Brisbane North (Caboolture)
- All Anglican Schools Business Managers/Bursars and Senior Leaders

### **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, 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**

26th February—3rd March Kathleen Marion Bishop (1991) Jennifer Ann Edwards (2004)  
Janice Helen Hughes (1965)

**To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,**

please use the account details:

BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.

Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

**Notices**

**Lenten Study.** This year we are using a resource produced by ABM called 'God's Own Country.' If you would like to be part of a study group please let us know through the Parish Office. A group is meeting on Wednesdays, at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

**Annual Meeting.** 10.30am on 25 February in the Maheno Room. At our Annual Meeting we will begin to consider our Parish Vision.

<b>THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH</b>			
<b>MONDAY, WEDNESDAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY</b>		8.30AM	MORNING PRAYER
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	28th	10.00am & 7.00pm	Lenten Study
<b>FRIDAY</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March	10.00am	*** no service at St John's. World Day of Prayer at Sts Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Riding Road, Balmoral
<b>SUNDAY</b>	3rd	7.30am 9.00am	Eucharist Eucharist including Children's Church
<i>Advance notice</i>			

<b>ROSTERED DUTIES 3/3</b>	<b>7.30AM</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>
<b>L.A.'s</b>	Roslyn/Tony	Howard/Roland
<b>MUSIC</b>	Robert Bland	Wendy Bastow
<b>READERS</b>	June/Tony	Linda P/Sarah
<b>INTERCESSOR</b>	Roslyn	Roland
<b>MORNING TEA</b>	Dianne/Jenny	
<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Bob & Glenda	Lisa
<b>AUDIO VISUAL</b>	Paul	Joanna
<b>FLOWERS</b>	no flowers in Lent	<b>CHURCH CLEANING</b> Barbara

## **Rector**

Reverend Canon Paul Mitchell Mobile 0400411055

Email: [priest@stjohnsbulimba.org](mailto:priest@stjohnsbulimba.org)

## **Associate Clergy**

Reverend Sharon Mitchell

Reverend Greg March 0417 616 256 (*available for spiritual direction*)

## **Church Contact**

**Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am to 1.30 pm**

Church Address: 171 Oxford Street, Bulimba

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**Website: [www.stjohnsbulimba.org](http://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.

## **CAKE STALL**

Last week's Cake Stall raised \$831.85, an amazing result as we did not have our usual helpers or bakers. The next Cake Stall is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, Election Day.

## **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.