

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL



"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost –12th July 2020

A Year to challenge violence, injustice & oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation

Welcome to St Paul's! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer where-ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back page.



Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Dear people of St Paul's,

In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can affirm and encourage each other in prayer. We can also join in worship at our regular times using this form of prayer which is from the Anglican Churches Liturgy. We will use it on Sunday with our Zoom services but if this is not possible for you, then join us at 9.30 am in spirit.

You can use it on your own or with others around you. You may use all of it or a part of it as suits you. If you have some lovely recorded music which feeds your faith, then add that to the mix also.

Further, I suggest you create a prayer space, in it you could have a candle, a cross and /or a picture, none of these are essential, but may be a help for prayer.

Finally, I pray that this difficult season may be one which, despite hardship, enriches and strengthens your faith.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

When all are gathered, the presider begins:

In the name of God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE: The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. John 6.63, 68

Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself’.

Silence to reflect.

Let us therefore bring our sins to the one true God, in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker, and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

Father, forgive us.

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance/ *absolution*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (*pause for silent prayer*) Bountiful God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word: by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 25.19-34

A reading from the book of Genesis

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil

stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

PSALM 119.105-112

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ **I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ **Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.**

¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ **The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

¹¹¹ Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² **I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.**

SECOND READING Romans 8.1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the

just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 13.1-9 18-23

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But

when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection – Sr Elisa

The sower and the seed.

In the Gospel today, Jesus is in Galilee surrounded by many people who are interested in hearing what he has to say.

Galilee is a beautiful part of Israel with rolling hills and a lot of farmland of varying degrees of quality.



Looking out at the Sea of Galilee from one of the gates on the Mount of the Beatitudes. You can see the type of farmland and countryside there.

Most of the crowd listening to Jesus speak, were peasant farmers who would have known the experience of planting seed. Most farmers would have focused their planting on soil which had been properly prepared so they could reap the best crop. If you imagine their faces looking at and listening to Jesus, you can almost see their amused smiles as they heard Jesus speak of the totally careless way the farmer in his story spread the seed. You would never intentionally plant on rocky ground, or among weeds or on a pathway, that is just wasteful. But in Jesus' story this is exactly what the farmer did and yes, the seed that landed in the hard places struggled to survive and in fact much of it didn't survive, but: in Jesus' story, the harvest was ten times larger than you'd expect from any harvest! It was literally enormous!

So that suggests a story of God's generosity with sharing the message of the Good News, reaching even into the hardest places where people are most resistant.

Jesus knew about resistance; his mum and siblings had just come to take him home to stop him from not conforming to the normal social approaches to life. He was probably not just embarrassing them on some levels, he was probably also shaming them by, as the elder son, not following his father's trade and looking after his flesh and blood family. We also know about the religious and secular leaders who were threatened by him.

With the second half of the reading the parable is interpreted as an allegory and consequently the understanding is changed in some ways. Commentators think that the parable originated from Jesus and the explanation came in the early church as they proclaimed God's word into the world and faced resistance in many ways. So, the parable does two important things.

It encourages us to keep speaking God's word into our world despite the many resistances we encounter, because you never know where it will take root and bear fruit.

Secondly, it asks the question of us: what kind of soil am I? And the truth is, we are a mixed bag. As faithful members of St Paul's we come to church or to worship God, to hear his word and to receive his life into our lives. But for all of us, there are some places where we don't want the seed to take root. It feels too hard, or we're not ready yet, or we want things done in ways which we like, and we feel God's word may change that, and we especially don't want change. Maybe we like being busy, and don't want to give God the space to challenge us.

On one level, we are what we are, God's word meets us in the place we are and so we hear it as it comes into our understanding and concept of life. On another level, unless we choose to be open and challenged, then even hearing God's word in a small way, will be difficult. I've known people who become deeply sensitive about something to the point where just touching it causes disruption, so others learn to stay away. But when that happens, God's voice is blocked even though he is speaking into that space wanting to gift life and healing through it. I've also seen those very same people grow, heal and deepen and ultimately find their vocation through

those sensitive places, by listening and prayerfully attending to what God is saying there.

God is incredibly generous and keeps inviting us to hear. The word is always present like droplets of water swirling around in the air waiting to land. Sometimes, it can break through, despite all the barriers, like the conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus when God hit him with a blinding light that literally stopped him in his tracks.

That kind of experience happens more often than we recognise, but for most of us, it is a gentle experience. We hear parts of it, and so we begin to grow in small ways, then we hear it again and grow some more etc. Sometimes we can't even see the growth at the time. To grow we need to nurture the soil, our hearts and minds, and that requires some effort. Ironically, the effort required is different for all of us, and different at different stages of life. Some people seem to be gifted with an awareness of God's presence and grace, some have that but really struggle with it and some seek it and find it hard to understand or see, but God is there for all of us, just tickling our hearts and calling us through Scripture, through relationships, through creation and all of the experiences of our lives.

Regardless of our varying awareness, all of us will benefit deeply by being intentional. Not just listening to God's word but allowing it to take root in our hearts and minds and actions. When the Word is properly rooted in us, it bears fruit. That is it comes out in the way we live in the world, through the things we say and do.

So how can we be intentional? There is no getting away from a discipline of having time to reflect and pray. Things are happening all the time in our lives, some are small and some are significant and

we need to attend to them in the context of Scripture and prayer, so we can understand them as God does and respond to them as God calls us to respond.

Two simple questions really help me, and I recommend them to you?

What is God saying to me in this moment, through this event, experience, feeling- whatever?

And:

How will I respond to it, or what will I do about it?

It also helps to have a Christian friend with whom you can reflect on how God is moving and challenging you in your life, and who will help to keep you accountable. Keeping you accountable is not the same as judging you or controlling you with a stick, but just assisting you in understanding your own responses and how you follow up. It is not gossiping but having an intentional relationship which will aid you in your Christian approach to life. We can get very serious about this and have a spiritual director and that's good, but a good spiritual friend whom you simply choose to go and have a coffee with every now and then, can be just as helpful if you are intentional. That is ask them to be your spiritual friend whom you can reflect with about your life.

An example of reflect and act and discuss: When I joined the Sisters at Kempsey there was another novice with me, and we were sent down to the water course at the bottom of our property to clear lantana. There were masses of it, and it was not a pleasant job. To

this day I cannot stand the smell of lantana, it brings back the memory of the scratches and the mosquito bites....!

Anyway, Jean and I had a massive argument because we both knew the easiest way to clear the lantana, and our ways were not the same. We were so angry with each other that we could not speak for a few days.

Near the end of the conflict when I was praying, it came to me; for Jean; easy was smaller loads and many steps, and for me it was bigger loads and fewer steps. When I explained it to Jean, it was like a cloud lifting and we both changed the way we worked to care for each other. I cut smaller pieces for Jean to carry and she cut larger pieces for me to carry. It was a lesson well learned about understanding how God works with people in their differences.

We had both been sharing with the novitiate Sister who was invested in working it through. Later the community sent us both off to courses which helped us understand ourselves a little more deeply, and about the differences of others.

Listening to and asking ourselves about what God is saying to us, and then following through with the appropriate actions, is how we grow, and things happen all the time which can challenge us to grow as we listen and respond!

In these ways, we deepen, not only in our knowledge of ourselves and others, and so in our ability to love. We also deepen in our knowledge of God and what it means to respond to God's word. God wants us to love each other and to follow Jesus as his disciples. All the time there are opportunities for us to be both planters of the seed and hearers of his word.

The starting point is always having our hearts and lives turned towards Jesus, and allowing him to lead us, and teach us, through the opportunities and events in our lives. Many things challenge us in this, but if we stay focused on him, we both find a way through and grow as his disciples.

The word of God is to the human heart, what a seed is to the earth. However, just as a seed needs soil, so the seed needs a receptive heart. The earth responds to the rain and sun so that even the desert blooms.

But the arid human heart has the power to resist so that it remains barren.

Lord Soften our hearts with your grace, open them with your gentle love, so that the precious seed of your word may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit in their lives. From Flor McCarthy.

Silence for reflection.

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Spirit of God hear our prayers for your world and your church.

We pray for the peoples of the world:

For those oppressed by harsh government.

those who live with Corona Virus

those in countries destroyed by war and violence and for refugees.

Spirit of peace grow in us; help us to live in harmony and to resolve our differences whatever the cause. That all your people may live full and healthy lives.

Spirit of God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders of tribes and nations:

For all who make and administer law.

For all who hold positions of civic authority and trust.

Spirit of wisdom grow in them; guide them in the way of insight, that they may carry out their responsibilities without favour or self-interest.

Spirit of God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church:

For leaders, councils, and synods; for ministers and all who proclaim your Gospel by word and deed.

Spirit of truth grow in us; give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to understand, that we may receive your word and bear much fruit to your glory.

Spirit of God. **Hear our prayer.**

praise in isolation also, with our whole heart, because we belong to the mystical Body of Christ

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1-2

Another area of concern and action for Zone A is the Livelihood of Women. This is important in rural cultures where the needs of children are sometimes not addressed by the fathers. Members discerned that women with income could give priority to the needs of their families. Let us give thanks to Lord with our whole heart for this wisdom.

PLANT SALE

Gardening Tips

Divide and plant in pots perennial Lily- of- the- Valley, Phlox, Sedums, Solomon's Seal and Violas. Alstromeria shoots are starting to emerge and can be dug up and transplanted into pots. Daffodils are starting to flower - bring the pots inside/ onto the veranda to brighten up winter.

It's a good time to dig some sheep manure into the garden for Spring plantings - we still have \$2 bags available Contact Noella /Deidre / Avis to arrange collection.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St Paul's AGM will be held on Sunday 9th August 2020 at 11.15am via Zoom. Please send reports to the parish office ASAP.

We will be seeking nominations for Parish Council.

Forms will need to be completed by everyone who wishes to be on the parish electoral roll.

I have sent a copy of the invoice for repairs to Detective Senior Constable Phil Canny as he requested but I don't know where it all goes from here. We'll probably read about it in the Ballarat 'Courier' court report one day.

Mark Stewart

EGG CARTONS, COFFEE AND SPICE JARS

If anyone has spare egg cartons, I am happy to collect them and pass them onto the many people who are currently looking for these. I am also able to up-cycle Masterfood type spice jars (with lids) to sell for 50 cents each, and Moccona Coffee jars selling for 50c-\$1.00 each. If you are able to remove labels and glue that would be great but not essential. These small amounts add up to tip into our fundraising efforts, and in the current climate people are looking to re-purpose and reduce waste.

Other items worth saving up are jam jars, especially Rose's Marmalade, and sauce bottles, all with lids. These will be in demand next fruit season, and as the old saying goes, are "money for jam".

Thank you. Sue Lanyon

Mob. 0429 092 205

NOTE REGARDING VANDALISM TO THE CHURCH IN OCTOBER, 2019

Parishioners will remember the unfortunate experience of vandalism that took place in the church last October – the most notable damage being to the organ. Last Tuesday I received a phone call from Ballarat Police, Detective Senior Constable Phil Canny. After checking that I was the person to be contacted regarding the damage to the church he informed me that the culprit had been caught – thanks to DNA technology and a partly eaten biscuit that he left behind at the time.

Parish Directory

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Garry Weatherill

Parish Priest Sr Elisa Helen, CSC

Tel. 5332 6479 [leave a message]

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

The Rev'd Deacon Bert Muysers

Parish Secretary: Lisa Smith ph

0438 362 589

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin ph 0414 786 762

Mark Stewart ph 0488 333 481

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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