



Community News
20 August 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

VIETNAM VETERANS
DAY Lest We
Forget



Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

9.25am 2 EAR FM

10.00am Prayer

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalm 67 (Page 460)

Romans 11:13-36 (Page 922)

Matthew 15:21-28 (Page 797)

The Baptism planned for this Sunday has been postponed as one of the children has COVID. Please pray for the family.

Readings

Monday: Psalm 106:42-48; Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday: Psalm 85:8-13; Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Psalm 21:1-7; Matthew 20:1-16a

Thursday: Psalm 40:5-11; Matthew 22:1-14

Friday: Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: Psalm 128; Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday: Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8;

Matthew 16:13-20

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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PHONE: 44725822 or contact Doug on 0428 907200.

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702 389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The church office is open Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 drnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410915409

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WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/batemansbayanglican/>

ANGLICAN NEWS:

2023: A year to Stand! Please extend this newsletter to someone to encourage them.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship – to avoid multiple people handling them they will remain in the back of the pews. The Common Cup is available for our Communion Worship. We offer individual cups for those who do not wish to use the Common Cup.

Masks: There is no requirement to wear a mask to attend church but you are invited to wear a mask to reduce community risk.

Hand Sanitizing: COVID and Flu– please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

WORKING BEES:

- Cleaning up of the Rectory (Hope House) on Saturday 19 August from 9am. All welcome.
- Boomerang: Saturday 2nd September from 10.00am. There will be a sausage sizzle for lunch provided by the Rotary Club.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully reviewed their giving. The average giving across June and July was about \$2000 per month better than the first 5 months of the year. While this will not completely reduce our deficit, especially this year, it gives us confidence moving forward to be able to sustain our ministry. Community Life has returned the rectory to the parish now that the Hope House ministry has been completed. Parish Council is working to provide a short term income producing use for the Rectory whilst engaging with Anglicare on potential longer term options. The parish will provide the small office for Community Life to use as the rectory and grounds are put to a new use. The Women's Mindfulness art classes have been a significant endeavour with up to 15 women now attending and new relationships and godly conversations occurring regularly.

ISABELLA'S (Rob and Joy Williams granddaughter) CURSILLO: Please pray for Isabella and all the women making their Cursillo in Newcastle 31 August – 3 September. Kay Walters will also be participating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48vNfKUHWRw>

FILM – SOUND OF FREEDOM: From Thursday 24 August, Perry Street Theatre is showing, Sound of Freedom, an action film based on an account of human trafficking. This is a difficult subject and one that gets little exposure in our busy world where most of what we go to see is for our entertainment. Julie and I are going to see this film on Saturday 26 August. We encourage you to consider attending one of the sessions: The trailer is: <https://www.perrystreetcinemas.com.au/movies/sound-freedom>.

BCA: It is box opening time in September, please bring in your boxes for Robin.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER: For support ring Elizabeth Dean 44724330.

Please take time to read our prayer list and ask God for one or two people on it to pray for, not necessarily people you know: Phillipa Shepherd, Veronica Newson, Dora Coma, Harry Lewis, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Annette Stewart, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Jonathon and Leticia, Bronwyn Lithgow, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman, Richard Austin, Eric Strachan, John Wilkinson, Dave Brown.

Bible Study Answers: Matthew 15: 21 -28. What most catches your attention? That the woman's child is demon possessed – this is no ordinary healing and it is the first healing overtly described amongst the gentiles so it has a significance beyond just the idea that Jesus will heal. Here the first act of Jesus ministry to gentiles is to set them free from captivity to the worship and control of other spirits/ gods. He is starting by addressing their spiritual understanding of the world and by revealing God the great I am to them as the source of power, healing and ultimately salvation - these things he reveals through himself and his being the messiah. The second thing that catches my attention is Jesus use of the term "dogs" to refer to gentiles i.e. to all non-Jews. This grates on the modern ear used to the idiom of inclusion. This is a term in use culturally at the time and with roots in the Old Testament and it refers to God's election of Israel as His chosen people. Even then God was revealing an intent to bring gentiles, the outsider, into his kingdom with a charge to Israel to as a nation be a priesthood to all the nations. In Romans 11: 11 -24 Paul uses the image of the Olive tree for Israel to explain how gentiles will be grafted into the kingdom of God.

Jesus refers to gentiles as “dogs” literally “wild curs”. Paul argues, in several texts, that there is no division in the Christian faith between Jew and Gentile. What is the theological basis for Paul’s teaching and how might we reconcile this with Jesus’ conversation with the Canaanite woman?

The first century Jews and Gentiles called each other unflattering names, it help to show who belonged with who. The reference to dogs is more precisely to being wild and undisciplined meaning from a Jewish position one living outside of the Torah law, especially the Kosher laws on being and staying ritually clean (or pure). You will note our passage follows straight after Jesus teaching on ritual purity and uncleanness. In this encounter Jesus recognises the woman’s outsidersness and the precedence of God’s call on him to proclaim the Messiah to the Jews first but he sees in her banter about the crumbs that she recognises and acknowledges God’s right and duty to go first to his people but also that God is generous and even the crumbs that the Jews reject or leave are sufficient for her and her daughter. Jesus recognises her understanding of the Messiah and that ultimately God intends the salvation of all (but first through the Jews) and he grants her request. Paul will become the missionary to the Gentiles and he will proclaim that “in Christ” i.e. for all those that are in a personal salvific relationship with Jesus that there is no distinction between Christians by race, gender or economic status. See Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11, 1 Corinthians 12. We would find our theological basis for this in the one act of Christ on the cross, we can also draw on Genesis 1: 27 - that all human beings are created in the image of God.

How does the dialogue with the woman reveal God’s plan for salvation and God’s understanding of the relationship between Israel and the other nations? Jesus conversation with the Canaanite woman is not an enduring statement of apartheid between Jews and Gentiles but rather it points to a moment of transformation where the greater purposes of God are seen through and behind his strategy of raising up the Jewish people to be his witnesses to the Gentiles and that failing to be effective. He will still yet save the gentiles through a Jew (Jesus) and mission them through another Jew (Paul). We should be careful to not let our beliefs support or enable anything that seeks to set people apart on the basis of their race, history has shown that this never ends well.

Sunday 20 August – Us too!

Traditional: Be Still My Soul https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7NezO6VhZU&ab_channel=GENTRI

Contemporary: Cornerstone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

Read. Matthew 15: 21 – 28. ²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” ²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” ²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. ²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” ²⁷“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” ²⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Thoughts. Jesus is moving from his focus on ministry to the Jews and his revelation to them as the Messiah. They have not understood who he is or the fundamental purposes of God’s call to them to be a Holy people. Jesus now moves to the north coast cities of Tyre and Sidon, deep into gentile lands and there he has this encounter – an encounter with an outsider who recognises his spiritual power and authority and who is persistent in her call for his compassion and healing. Her wit and her wisdom gain her God’s attention and her demon possessed child is delivered and healed. Interestingly, Jesus does not need to confront he demon for it to have to flee – Mark’s account of this story has the woman return home to find her daughter well. Salvation for gentiles (that is for us too!) as well as Jews has always been in God’s big plan, in this story we see it start to break through and be revealed – but Jesus cannot be diverted by this experience , his main game is still, and always will be, Jerusalem and the cross.

Prayers: Almighty God, ruler of all creation, give strength to our faith, that we may recognize your presence even when all hope seems lost. Help us to face all trials as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life and come at the last to your eternal peace. As we come before you fill us again with your Holy

Spirit and inspire our hearts to pray as you would pray – teach us Lord to pray with the eyes of the Father. Lord, we see the pain of the people caught in isolation and darkness who without you have no hope, no peace and no certainty. Answer their needs Lord, even when they deny your existence, reveal yourself to them in dreams and visions that they might find a real and true hope in the harshest of days. Holy Spirit be the voice that we hear that we might base our choices on Christ's leading and be renewed in our minds and encouraging in all our speech. Help us to see beyond the words said to us and reveal the inner hurts that cause others to speak from pain and brokenness and like the Canaanite Woman give us God inspired insight to your grace. Keep safe all those who are serving our community as carers and healers, especially our hospitals and schools, allow them to hear, respond and assist without becoming enmeshed and overloaded with the stories they have to hear – give them your compassion and wisdom in these days. We continue to pray for Anjelica and all the High School students doing HSC trial exams.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Traditional: Love Divine https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK6wlvqzVky&ab_channel=Annielsbilir

Contemporary: Only a Holy God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jxn_fu6rdCU&ab_channel=ScottBacher

Blessing: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord, and may the blessing of God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever **Shalom**

Read Matthew 16: 1 -20. Who are the Pharisees and the Sadducees and why are they testing Jesus? What is the sign of Jonah? (Hint Matthew 12:29 , Luke 11:30).

What might the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees be and why is it dangerous? What is the nature of yeast and what might modern examples be of this risk to faith?

Why might Matthew have followed this discussion of yeast and Jonah with Peter's confession of Christ.

What does Peter receive because of his revelation as to the true nature of Jesus? What might we receive when we see and recognise Christ as the Son of the Living God?