

FEBRUARY 28TH AND MARCH 7TH 2021

# THE LINK

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BELMONT NEWSLETTER

## Even more...or less ?

*A commentary on Mark 8: 31-34 by David Spriggs; New Daylight May - August 2006*

**J**esus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, 'The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life.'... Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples he corrected Peter. He said to him, 'Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God.' Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples... 'If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me.'



So maybe the disciples were ready to face the deeper and far more disturbing truth about what being Messiah (and being associated with the Messiah) really meant. Jesus gives the first lesson here.

What a tough lesson it is! Jesus would challenge them on many occasions and in different contexts with this reality-but they still didn't get it. James and John still wanted the best seats in the kingdom (Mark 10: 35-40). Even at the last supper, the disciples were debating which of them was the most important (Luke 22: 24). Unbelievable? Unfortunately not. Listen to (or recognise the motivations lying behind) the discussions of members or leaders of our churches nationally or even our own hearts. Self - seeking and self - protection are insistent voices that are not easily silenced.

for

When Jesus begins to explain that his model Messiah is the suffering servant, not even Peter can make the leap of faith and faithfulness that is required. Peter tries to be tactful. He takes Jesus aside to put him right, but not even private conversations and prayer can change this fact. The stubborn truth is that God's ways are not like ours. His purposes are to forgive enemies and to restore us to friendship, not quash human rebellion out of existence. The only way to do this is the dreadful way of the cross. The only way to resurrection and restoration is via death.

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank you that you were prepared to pay the ultimate price to restore us to God. Help us to love when we're rejected, forgive when we're hurt and give when we're taken for granted. Amen.*

**'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'**

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## Sunday 28th February ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent

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

**Collect.** 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.**

**Readings.** Genesis 17: 1-7, 17: 15-16; Psalm 22.24-32; Romans 4: 13-25; Mark 8: 31-38.

## Sunday 7th March ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent

**Sentence.** God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.' **Exodus 20.1.**

**Collect.** Lord our God, by your Holy Spirit write your commandments upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness, we may become a living temple of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings.** Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22.

## Prayers for Today

### pray for those in need

- For George Littras and Shirley, Ethan (Irene's Grandson), Murray Calder, June Cook, Jack Laherty, Sheila Dawson, Tom Collett, John and Lyn Hilcke, Alison Walker, Sylvia Biviano, Betty Miller, Diana Smith, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, Ken Bampton, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Rose Edwards, Charlotte MacEndry, Rev'd Sharon Valentino, Shirley Dougherty, Jim and Joy Durrant, Den, Dawn Tait and for Dawn's sister Coral, Bernard Conradie and André, Amira Farag and George, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Archdeacon Jill McCoy, Carolyn Melling and for all others on our hearts and minds.
- For the Chemically Addicted and their Support Agencies.
- For the Lonely and the Bereaved.

### pray for the world

- For peace and prosperity for all nations in political turmoil especially where it has led to violence.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and their Support Agencies.
- For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease and for the success of the vaccine roll-out
- We pray that as restrictions are eased, the communities will act in a responsible way and be aware of the needs of all.
- For all governments; that they will surrender power for service.
- For all Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and all Advocates and Support Agencies.
- For Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients (Mach, Abhor, David, James).

## Hopefully...

...this will be the last of the fortnightly Links and from March 14th we will return to a weekly issue. Being able to produce a weekly issue will depend on internet access at our new address. Also it is your Link, so please be a contributor. To those that do contribute, thank you.

## More Prayers for Today

pray for the

### community

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- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and treaty.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For Home Makers and Retired Persons.
- For Oberon High School.
- For RSL Clubs and Legacy.
- For The RSPCA and Animal Welfare Groups.
- For Building Industry Workers.

pray for

### our church

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- For every member of St Stephen's at this time.
- For The Link editor and photocopiers.
- Pray with thanks for Reverend Liz, for her enthusiasm and for continuing to try new ways to lead us.
- For those among us who are working tirelessly to keep St Stephen's 'working as a Community of Faith'.
- For our Audio Visual Operators.
- To keep striving to maintain our connection with the community of Belmont and with each other to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the financial and other resources to enable Christ's mission.

pray for the

### wider church

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- For the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne.
- For The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, St Stephens, Kakuma (The Revd Simon Majak) and Donholm (The Revd David Chol).
- For The Oodthenong Episcopal Area (The Rt Revd Kate Prowd).
- For The Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).
- For the Uniting Church.
- For the Ocean Grove Parish: St Peter's and St Peter's Barwon Heads.

## Some more 'special' prayers

### **A Prayer for those growing old**

Lord, Thou knowest I am growing older. Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.

Make me thoughtful but not nosey; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all. But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for tourists**

Heavenly Father, look down on us your humble, obedient tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

Give us divine guidance to the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and hot water running from the taps. We pray that the telephones work, and the operators speak our tongue.

Lead us dear Lord, to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price: Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currency we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not what we can contribute to their worldly goods: Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces and castles listed as 'musts' in the guide books.

And if perchance we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

# 'A Day at the Office' for Richard McCullough

One day about 15 years ago, I took a tour of Parliament and among the people there was a delightful old couple from New York, they would have been at least in their lower 80s.

I was talking to them after the tour was completed and it turned out that they were both retired Judges in the New York area. I just happened to pipe up with "Some of the other staff watch Judge Judy down in our staff room at lunchtime".

The lady said, "Did you hear that Harold? Why she's our friend and she lives in our neighborhood, I'm going to tell her that we met you, and tell her how beautiful this building is, please could you write down your name and address for me".

A couple of months later I received a parcel in heavy brown paper in the mail. There was a short note from them inside, plus a new copy of Judge Judy's book. "Don't pee on my leg and tell me it's raining" [*She got that title from something her father had said to her on a visit to her boarding school at university, and found that she was feeding him untruths regarding her studies*]

Inside my book, Judge Judy had written in Biro on the flyleaf, " April, 98' to Richard, enjoy the read! Thanks for watching, my best, Judy Sheindlin.

I was taken aback with the sincerity of this nice surprise. The one thing that was disappointing to me, was that I never took the time to write back and thank them to my absolute shame which was out of character for me.

Just a footnote!

How scary time is. At the beginning of my tale I mentioned that I thought this happened about 12 years ago. But just now, I noticed that Judge Judy in her book had written 98!

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## Now, how about a story from you for The Link!

Please give or email your item to Peter Fyfe at [pfyfe@iinet.net.au](mailto:pfyfe@iinet.net.au) by 2.00 pm Tuesdays.

## Parish Contacts



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**Pastoral Care**  
Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

## A prayer for a new Incumbent

*Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

**Prayer of the Week**

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Monday** *March 1st***Morning**

Pss 1, 2 or 25; Genesis 43: 1-15; Luke 12: 49-59.

**Evening**

Pss 3, 4 or 15; Jeremiah 29: 1-19 (20-23); Hebrews 7: 11-25.

**Tuesday** *March 2nd***Morning**

Pss 5, 6 or 3, 6; Genesis 43: 15-34; Luke 13: 1-9.

**Evening**

Pss 7, 8 or 32, 130; Jeremiah 29: 24-30: 9; Hebrews 7: 26-8: 6.

**Wednesday** *March 3rd***Morning**

Pss 9 or 90; Genesis 44: 1-17; Luke 13: 1-9.

**Evening**

Pss 10 or 38; Jeremiah 30: 10-22 (23-24); Hebrews 8: 7-13.

**Thursday** *March 4th***Morning**

Pss 11, 12 or 39; Genesis 44: 18-34; Luke 13: 22-35.

**Evening**

Pss 13, 14 or 102; Jeremiah 31: 1-14; Hebrews 9: 1-10.

**Friday** *March 5th***Morning**

Pss 15, 16 or 69; Genesis 45: 1-15; Luke 14: 1-14.

**Evening**

Pss 17: 1-13 (14) 15-16 or 22; Jeremiah 31: 15-26; Hebrews 9: 11-22.

**Saturday** *March 6th***Morning**

Pss 18: 1-31 or 88; Genesis 45: 16-46: 7; Luke 14: 1-14.

**Evening**

Pss 18: 32-38 (39-44) 45-52; Jeremiah 32: 27-40; Hebrews 9: 23-10: 4.

**Prayer of the Week**

Lord God, our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Monday** *March 8th***Morning**

Pss 20, 21: 1-7 (8-13); Genesis 46: 26-47: 12; Luke 15: 1-10.

**Evening**

Pss 24, 26 or 15; Jeremiah 32: 1-15; Hebrews 10: 5-18.

**Tuesday** *March 9th***Morning**

Pss 22: 1-22 or 3, 6; Genesis 47: 13-31; Luke 15: 11-32.

**Evening**

Pss 22: 23-32, 23 or 32, 30; Jeremiah 32: 16-35; Hebrews 10: 19-31.

**Wednesday** *March 10th***Morning**

Pss 25 or 90; Genesis 48; Luke 16: 1-13.

**Evening**

Pss 97 or 38; Jeremiah 32: 36-33: 9; Hebrews 10: 32-39.

**Thursday** *March 11th***Morning**

Pss 28, 29 or 39; Genesis 49: 1-21; Luke 16: 14-31.

**Evening**

Pss 30, 32 or 102; Jeremiah 33: 10-26; Hebrews 11: 1-12.

**Friday** *March 12th***Morning**

Pss 33 or 69; Genesis 49: 22-50: 6; Luke 17: 1-19.

**Evening**

Pss 131 or 22; Jeremiah 34: (1-7) 8-22; Hebrews 11: 13-28.

**Saturday** *March 13th***Morning**

Pss 35: 1-17 or 88; Genesis 50: 7-26; Luke 17: 20-37.

**Evening**

Pss 35: 18-29, 36 or 31; Jeremiah 35; Hebrews 11: 29-40.

# Rosters...are you on?

## Sunday March 7th

### Worship Leader and Teacher

9.30 am Rev Liz Bufton

### Readings

9.30 am Richard McCullough

### Prayers

9.30 am Chris Parkinson

### Communion Assistants

9.30 am Pam Borrowes  
Max Osborn

### Welcomers

9.30 am Dale Price and Lyn Hilcke

### Music

9.30 am Music Group

### Audio Visual

9.30 am Brett Gear

### Church Cleaning

Pam and Max Osborn

**Linen** Jane Moloney

**Brass** Jan Douglas

**Flowers (Not Required)**

**Lawns** Geoff Parkinson

## Sunday March 14th

### Worship Leader and Preacher

9.30 am Rev Liz Bufton

### Readings

9.30 am Ros Eddington

### Prayers

9.30 am Ros Eddington

### Communion Assistants

9.30 am Fady Issa and Tom Collett

### Welcomers

9.30 am Brett and Sarah Gear

### Music

9.30 am Music Group

### Audio Visual

9.30 am Terry Hendsen

### Church Cleaning

Pam Burrows and Chris Parkinson

**Linen** Jane Moloney

**Brass** Jan Douglas

**Flowers**

**Lawns** Geoff Parkinson

***If you can't do your rostered task, please arrange for a replacement***

YOU CAN'T BLAME THE DISCIPLES. JESUS' TALK OF TAKING UP A CROSS MUST HAVE SOUNDED CRAZY TO THEM.

IT'S TRUE.

EVEN FOR US IT FEELS OVERWHELMING.

REALLY!?!



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MARK 8:27-38

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WHY IS JESUS SO HARD ON THE RICH GUY?

WELL- HE'S GOT SO MUCH STUFF. HE CAN'T SEE A WAY TO GIVE IT UP TO FOLLOW JESUS.

BOY! I WISH I HAD THAT PROBLEM!

MAYBE YOU DO.



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MARK 10:17-19

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