

Welcome to St Philip's

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Newsletter for Sunday July 13th 2003 (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Sea Sunday)

Dear Friends,

Today is observed as Sea Sunday in parts of the Anglican Communion as we remember the ministry of The Mission to Seafarers in many ports of the world and in Australia.

The recent debacle in the U.K. over the issue of homosexuality and the subsequent withdrawal of the candidate from his consecration as bishop has not solved the problem. It still remains! The decision of Canon Jeffery John to withdraw may well have shown us the qualities of the man; humble, faithful, unifying rather than divisive and highlighted exactly why he was chosen in the first place! And that is exactly my point! The reasons he was called to be a bishop are still there - they are his obvious faith, and leadership qualities!

The fact that he admitted to being gay (he was honest too - always a good quality for a bishop!) should not have been of concern. The fact that Canon John admitted to being celibate was probably his greatest fault and really is a judgement on the wider church for expecting such a limitation on his life.

There have been many fine priests and bishops in the past who were gay

but for whatever reason the whole issue was never discussed, partly because they had to suffer in silence and/or secrecy. But they were fine priests and bishops who struggled with their personal lives the way we all do - with love and friendship, with families and the help of wise counsellors and confessors. I have also encountered bishops and priests with alcohol problems and with great family difficulties but in some ways I think their ministry was enhanced. It is a great sadness that we cannot allow each other the privilege of being human while we let the grace of God work in our lives. If people are paedophiles or cruel to their partners their sin is damaging and destructive and I cannot equate that with an affirming relationship whether it be heterosexual or homosexual.

In the end I believe we should care for people and help them find strength, healing and fulfilment in their relationships. Rather than looking for fault we should be looking out for a persons gifts and qualities and help them to put them to use for the God who gave them. Which is about where I came in...

In the first reading today from the second book of Samuel we hear of David having established his headquarters at Jerusalem now adding to the prestige of the city by making it a religious centre as well as a political and military centre. It was therefore appropriate for the ark to be brought up to Jerusalem to be the symbol of the national God. God whose presence originally symbolically travelled with his people is now being brought to a set place in Jerusalem. The Ark remained the focus of God's presence for the People of God. The dancing of David before the Ark has inspired artists down through the ages and remains an inspirational image! Should we do more dancing in worship? The theme of building a people is evident in the second reading "He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ" The Gospel reveals the courage of John the Baptist as he challenges Herod's selfish and immoral behaviour. It is a reminder that faithfulness to God calls us to challenge selfishness and immorality wherever we may find it.

Rob Lamerton

Please pray for:

Those in need of healing: Peter Blaseotto, Irene Keast, Rowan Gray, Shirley Campbell, Megan Clelland, Anne Hollingworth, Merv McInnes, Laurel Knight, Connie Hearn, Paul Mitchell, Athol and Thelma Barratt, Jim Legge, Mira Barratt, Marina, Jutaro Murase, Ted Moore, also Malvina, Mark and Kimberley.

The Saints: Benedict of Nursia, abbot (d. 550)

Please keep me informed about these people so that we know how to pray or if they should no longer be on the list. Thanks!

This week

Rob Lamerton will be on leave this week and the Rev'd Jeannette McHugh will be conducting worship services on Wednesday and Sunday
Wednesday:
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th July, 2003
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

8.00am and 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday Readings:

2 Sam: 7: 1-14
Psalm 89: 21-38
Eph.2: 11-22
Mark 6: 30-34,53-56

Rosters:

Morning Tea: Janet & Tony Brian-Davis
Readers
8am: Carola Parke
10am: Sarah Gowty 1st Linda Anchell 2nd
Sidespersons: 8am: Norm Davey
10am: Grace Barnes & Peter Andersson
Flowers: Carola Parke

Notices

Had a call from Doug Bannerman who invites us to his Induction as Rector of Orbost on Thursday 17th July! Also heard from Fay Nicholson to let us know that she and Fr. Bill arrived safely and to say thanks for so warmly welcoming them amongst us at St Philip's!

"St Philip's Family Fun Christmas in July Dinner"
Friday 25th July (THIS FRIDAY)
Drinks 6.30pm - Dinner 7pm - \$25.00 per head,

BYO Drinks.

Please reserve your place on the list in the foyer or phone Leighton 62608030. Singing, slides, & other family fun activities. Optional Christmas theme dress! Please invite everyone you know, as we have a minimum of 50 required for catering.

GARAGE SALE & BBQ SATURDAY - 26 JULY 9AM - 12 (THIS SATURDAY)

Helpers required on the day to sell. Donations of goods grateful received from Sunday 20 July. Proceeds for Parish property maintenance. For further information please talk to Leighton 62608030

CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP 26th JULY

The workshop will be held at St Marks National Theological Centre, Blackall St., Barton from 9am to 3pm. Cost \$5.00. Participants should bring their own lunch. Tea and Coffee will be available. All who work with children in the parish should plan to attend this or another workshop. We need to have the numbers of those participating. Please let me know if you are planning to attend!

GENERAL MEETING

The meeting to fill the Parish Council vacancy will now be held on Sunday 27th July at the conclusion of the 10am Eucharist.

SERVERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The shortage of a regular supply of servers to assist at the Eucharist has prompted me to invite any interested people to offer to be trained. Although we have mostly had younger servers there is no age limit. There may be adults who have been itching to offer! Now is your big chance!

SIDESPEOPLE ROSTER:

If there is anyone who would like to be part of the Sidespeople Roster (once a month at 10a.m. service) please see Grace Barnes or Rob Lamerton.

Weekly Offering Required \$1565

Offerings banked 7/7/03 - Envelopes and Loose \$862.50, EFT \$320

The following amounts below are not part of the required weekly offering

- Pandora's \$154.70, Trading Table \$87.70, Anglicare \$20

Kindergarten Rent \$1697.80

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[There is some Java Script here. The date changes whenever the page is updated.
In Internet Explorer the date is given as "month day year"]