

Something to think about:

To have escaped hearing about the recent flood of people fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other worn torn countries, you would have had to go and sit in a humpy in the middle of the Great Sandy Desert for the past few months. The stories of loss, abuse and sheer frustration each day seem to be worse with the ones heard the day before. The urge to keep their families safe is so strong, that it even overcomes the fear of entering leaky boats, and sustains people as they trudge for endless miles to find a place that will give them just a little bit welcome. I have heard it said that these asylum seekers are a bit like unwelcome house guests, who over stay their welcome and eat the hosts out of food. That certainly is one way to look at it, but how should we, as Christians, consider this issue? They may well be coming in uninvited, but don't we have a duty to God to treat these tired, hungry and desperate people as though each one were the Christ child himself? Only a few years ago, the lifestyle of many in Syria would have been a bit similar to ours, with concerns about educating kids, public transport, following fashions or finding that perfect barrister-made coffee. Nowadays, their concern is staying alive from day to day, and if you are a Christian or part of an Islamic minority in Syria, the very real fear of persecution and death has changed priorities there for ever. How would we deal with living there in "Syria-come-to-Victoria"? We can sit on the side-lines, wringing our hands, or we can talk to our politicians to ask them to soften their hearts. To ask them to remember the wonderful contribution that past refugees have made to our country.

The depth of the tragedy has been brought home to people around the world by images of a 3-year-old boy's body washed up on a beach in Turkey. During the Yugoslavian war in the 1990s, Australia created temporary "safe haven" space for people fleeing the terror. Can we not do the same again? And why not? If a woman in our gospel this morning can have such an outrageous faith that she insisted on Jesus helping her daughter, despite not being a Jew, then why can't we take some risks and help these folks?

Janet Morley has a perfect prayer for this....

We pray for those

who have refused to be silent before injustice;
who have been repeatedly turned away but are not discouraged
whose outrageous faith has caused the mighty to tremble;
whose stubborn humour gives their allies heart.

We pray for those

who have the power to do good and will not;
who attend to no voice but their own;
who dismiss the causes of oppression,
and ignore the plight of the powerless.

*God bless you this week
in all you do,*

Rev'd Elizabeth.

0404 165 096



Welcome to Worship in our Parish

Sixth of September Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday

8:00 AM

St Mark's Leopold

St Paul's Whittington

10:00 AM

St Mark's Leopold

St Barnabas' Newcomb

Tuesday - Friday

9:15 AM

St Barnabas'

(School terms only)

Morning Prayer

Wednesday

10:00 AM

St Barnabas'

St Mark's

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to enable individuals to recognise and carry out their ministries as Christians. Through this, we strive to become a model company of faithful people who both honour their varied traditions and actively share in building the family of Christ.

<http://www.bellarinegateway.org.au>

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit."
Ps 51:10-12*

Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of:

Eiril, May, Cassie & family,
Heather, Peter Lowthian,
Joyce Rowe, Tom & Denny,
Alan Loney, Pam, Ivy, Meryl,
Barbara Wilkinson, Joy and
Gwen Philipson.

If you have any more
names, please let the pew
sheet editor know **but only
after** getting permission
from the person involved.

Ministry Team

Reverend Elizabeth Breakey	5250 1401, 0404 165 096 vicar@bellarinegateway.org.au
Reverend Jack Humphrey	5229 0189, 0431 680 657 jackria@optusnet.com.au
Dr Wayne Stewart	0414 503 300 waynestewart@mac.com
Mrs Wilma Farrell	5244 5537 (pastoral ministry)

Readings

Today
Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2.1-10, 14-17
Mark 7.24-37

Next Sunday
Proverbs 1.20-33
Psalm 19
James 2.18-26
Mark 8.27-38

PARISH PRAYER

Lord you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Guide us in our worship and life together: transform us into whatever you would have us do. Help us to be deeply connected with the world around us and strengthen us to proclaim the good news in word and deed in this community, for the glory and for the growth of your kingdom. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Anniversaries: Nope
Birthdays: Move along, nothing to see here.
Today in History: 1620 – The Pilgrims leave England on the Mayflower for the USA.

The September issue of TMA (The Melbourne Anglican) is now available in the foyer/narthex. This issue includes:

- Archbishop Freier responds to SRI's removal from class time
- An interview with leading Church of England Missioner Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, who says mission is "not about 'scalp-hunting' for Jesus"
- A report and two viewpoints on the debate about same-sex marriage
- A tribute to one of the great prophets of our time – Martin Luther King Jr
- A review by Barney Zwartz of Roy Williams' latest book Post-God Nation? How religion fell off the radar in Australia
- A reflection on meditation, mindfulness and Christian Faith
- The theological implications of the earth-like planet Kepler-452b, or Earth 2.0.



Welcome to our services this morning. It is hoped you find your time worshipping God enjoyable and enriching. Please stay for a cuppa and fellowship.

St Mark's Vicarage: There are now private tenants in the vicarage. Please respect their privacy.

Coming up & before it's too late!

- **Nepal – aftermath and rebuild:** Afternoon tea with Sheldon Rankin CEO of the Leprosy Mission (Australia)
Sunday 6 September, 2:30 pm, Western Heights Uniting Church, 31 Douglass St, Herne Hill.
A collection will be taken, enquiries: Barry Edwards 03 5241 7073
- **Leopold UCAF 79th Birthday Celebration:** Entertainment by Gerald Hayward followed by afternoon tea. Donation requested.
Monday 21 September 1:30 PM, RSVP 7/9/15 PO Box 78, Leopold 3224



Trivia Quiz: Arrange the following people in the order of their birth: Daniel, Elizabeth (not the vicar), Jerome, Joshua, Mark, Naomi, Shem, Terah and Uriah.

Last Week: Match the day with the task:

One	Heavens & earth, light & darkness.
Two	The firmament to divide the waters.
Three	Dry land, seas, grass, herbs & trees.
Four	Sun, moon & stars.
Five	Fish & birds.
Six	Land animals, man woman.
Seven	God rested.

Morning Prayer: Morning prayer will now be held every Tuesday - Friday (school terms only) at St Barnabas' at 9:15 AM. The service should last approximately twenty minutes.

Lois Ferguson: The funeral of Lois Ferguson was held on Friday, please pray for her family at this time.

