

Reflection for Pentecost 7:

Life wasn't easy for St Paul. He talked of a thorn in his flesh, whatever that might mean, and desperately asked God to relieve him of his weary suffering. The response he heard back from God wasn't quite what he wanted to hear, but it can be helpful to us; when we are suffering, just knowing that we are not alone and that even those with a huge driving faith in God, such as St Paul, can also do it tough, then perhaps there is some comfort to be found for us.

God told St Paul 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' "So", said Paul determined to make the best of a lousy situation, "I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

For whenever I am weak, I am strong.

Talk about a counter cultural statement!

So where is our parish strength in our weakness? I wonder how you would answer that? I discovered an alarming statistic this week, that seemed to me like a weakness when I first worked it out. I was playing around with numbers from the 2016 Census (there's no denying my engineer's fascination with numbers!) and here's what I found.

In 2016, our parish of Leopold, Newcomb and Whittington had a combined population of 31,286 residents. A surprising 3,752 declared themselves to be Anglicans, that's 12% of the population. So there's our strength, but our weakness is that 70 loyal and prayerful Anglicans attend church worship services each Sunday in this parish. That's 0.2%. So good news! The only way is up.

Our strength is how we face this challenge, not letting ourselves be dismayed, but instead celebrate the opportunity to grow. Collectively, we need to get our heads together and work out just how we contact these Church of England/Anglicans and remind them that no one forces them to declare themselves as Anglicans, so would they like to come and join us now and again?

We have the St Francis pet blessing in October and the Op Shop Fashion Show in November. We will need to present a unified and gracious invitation to our neighbours to join us for the fun, and then to be ready with information on future services and even our Christmas services. Would anyone like to help with this? I hope so.

What is your weakness today, and how can you turn it around into a strength, or at least into a positive challenge?

..... God bless you and all for whom you pray this week.

Elizabeth

Pew Sheet: Material for inclusion in Pew Sheets should be given to Alf. by Wednesday evening..



Shining Christ's Light on the Peninsula

*Welcome
to
Worship in Our Parish*

July 8th 2018

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Normal Service Times

Sundays

8:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Paul's Whittington
10:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Barnabas' Newcomb

Wednesday - 10:00 am

1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ St Barnabas'
2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ St Mark's
5th Wednesday @ St Paul's

Morning Prayer @ St Barnabas' - 9 am

Monday - Wednesday, Friday

Parish Identity

BGAP : A community who loves God and everyone else.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable individuals to recognize 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.

No 8 am service @ St Paul's on July 15th
See inside for details.

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar: Rev'd Elizabeth Breakey 5250 1401; 0404 165 096
Email: vicar@bgap.church

Father Jim Minchin 0427 056 654, frjminchin@gmail.com

Mr Wayne Stewart Child Safety Officer, 0414 503 300, wayne@bgap.church

Mrs Wilma Farrell 5244 5537 Pastoral Ministry

Parish web-site: www.bgap.church

Today's Readings

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Next Week's Readings

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:1-14
Mark 6:14-29

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.

Known Happy Birthdays: Faye Hammond 12th

(Please contact me if I miss any important dates so that I may up-date my records. Alf)



Prayers for Healing: Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of the following people who are on our hearts: Joel, Colin, Brian, Ray & Harrison family; Barrie & Pat, Val & John, Adrian, Sue & family, Alan, Graeme, Des M, Peter, Ann, Barb, Barbara S, Pam, Arthur, Cassie & family.

St Barnabas' Dunny Drive: BGAP's bank account details: BSB 033 009 A/c #537753. Identify the payment as St B's

Vicar's study: Rev'd Elizabeth has been accepted by Drew University in Madison, New Jersey to join an on-line Doctorate of Ministry programme.

This will mean that Elizabeth is absent each week for 1 day study leave, and she is in negotiation with the diocese to see how this can be best covered or supported for the well-being of the parish. She will be heading to the States for 3 weeks to participate in the initial intensive part of the course in late July.

Archdeacon of Geelong: Archdeacon Emeritus Edwin Lang has accepted our Archbishop's invitation to take up the position of Interim Archdeacon of Geelong. Please remember Archdeacon Edwin in your prayers as he prepares to take on this interim ministry.



Welcome to our services today. We hope you find your time worshipping God enjoyable and enriching. Please stay after the services for a cup of tea/coffee, biscuit and fellowship.

For your diary:

Saturday July 14th
Sunday July 15th
Wednesday 18th
Friday July 27th
October date tba

Garage Sale in support Kokoda Youth Program
Bishop Philip visits BGAP at St Mark's @ 8 am
Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral @ 5.10 pm
Trivia Night in support Kokoda Youth Program
Spring Fair



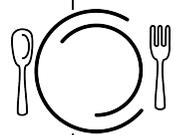
Please note: There will only be one 8 am service on 15th July and it will be at St Marks. There will, however, be a 10 am service at St Barnabas' and at St Mark's as usual. That way, all parishioners can decide whether to join in worship with the retiring Bishop, Bishop Philip, at 8 am at St Mark's, or to attend their usual 10 am service. We pray for Bishop Philip in this very busy time as he completes his pastoral duties within the diocese and prepares for retirement.



Confirmation: There will be an opportunity to be confirmed into the Church of God at the 8 am service at St Mark's on July 15th. Please contact Elizabeth if you are inspired to take this opportunity.

Thank you: A sincere 'Thank you' to ALL who helped at Rhoda Seiffert's funeral, especially to those who made the sandwiches and slices. There was ample for those who stayed for refreshments. The family were very appreciative of the support given.

Cathedral evensong: Parishioners are invited to join a group travelling by train to St Paul's Cathedral on 18th July for a 5.10 pm evensong. BGAP will be particularly mentioned in the prayers. Join fellow travellers at **Geelong South Railway Station** to catch the **3.24 pm train to Southern Cross**. After the service we shall share a meal at Southbank food court where there is something affordable for every taste. The plan is to return on the 7.47 pm train from Flinders St Station, and be back in Geelong at 9.09 pm at Geelong South Railway Station. But this could vary by 30 minutes.



Kokoda Youth Garage Sale will be at Leopold Uniting Church on Saturday 14th July commencing at 8:00 am. Donated items may be brought in on the Friday evening or call Dennis Mitchell (5250 2120) to arrange a pick up.

Kokoda Youth Trivia Night: Friday 27th July; Leopold Sportsmans Club; 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start; auctions, raffles, lucky prizes; BYO nibbles, tea/coffee supplied; drinks at Club prices; tables of up to 8; \$20 per person; to book contact Dennis Mitchell 0428 712 321 or 5250 2120. Can BGAP make up a table and challenge the Uniting Church?

BGAP Photo Competition 2018: Submission date: 31st August
Refer previous Pew Sheets (June 10, 17, 24) for details.