

Something to think about:

I am still talking about asylum seekers and refugees! What a difference a week makes, and yet our prayers are still mixed. I attended a candle lit vigil outside Town Hall on Thursday, along with hundreds of others. We realised that we are thankful for the government's new increased intake of refugees, yet aware that all is not quite as it should be.....

Each day at Morning Prayer, we pray for ourselves, for the parish and for the world. This is part of my prayer this week....

We pray for peace, peace in lands where terror and danger have become the norm. Peace in lands where people are forced to flee, and to risk their lives just to find a safe place to bring up kids, to look after ageing parents, to simply be.....

The plight of refugees particularly in North Africa and Southern Europe has been on our minds recently, and we continue to pray for refugees and asylum seekers across the world.

However, there is silence in the media regarding those asylum seekers incarcerated in Australian detention camps across the Pacific and on the mainland. We pray that they might somehow know that we haven't forgotten them, and that out of sight does not mean out of mind.

We give thanks that our government has finally heeded public opinion, and has extended an invitation for another 12 000 people to make a home in Australia, to find a new and safe future here. We truly give thanks.

There's a catch, though, we pray that in our joy over this gesture, we may not be blinded to the divisive selection of refugees, judging one to be more acceptable to our country, to our shared future, than another, based on their religion or gender.

I am afraid that in giving with one hand, we have again planted the seeds of radicalism with the other.

So, we pray that our leaders will listen to more than just the pollsters and spin doctors, that they will listen to Australians, with many different passions and opinions. We continue to pray that their newly found generosity will reach as far as the asylum seekers imprisoned for daring to risk everything for a safe haven, but arrived by the wrong mode of transport, by sea. We pray that we may all see Christ in each and everyone of the refugees, regardless of creed, colour or gender, and that we may open our hearts and houses to allow them a chance to be secure.

To be safe..... To simply stop fleeing terror and to live in peace.

In your name, Lord, Amen.

*God bless you this week
in all you do,
Rev'd Elizabeth.
0404 165 096*



Welcome to Worship in our Parish

Thirteenth of September Sixteenth 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'

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays

St Mark's

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>

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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 Braekey

5250 1401, 0404 165 096
vicar@bellarinegateway.org.au

Reverend Jack Humphrey

5229 0189, 0431 680 657
jackria@optusnet.com.au

Readings

Today

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

Next Sunday

Proverbs 31.10-31
Psalm 1
James 3.1-12
Mark 9.30-37

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: Penny Stewart 14/9, Gordon Dendle & Gloria Lang 17/9, Audrey Miles 18/9

Today in History: 1541 – John Calvin returns to Geneva to reform the church under the Calvinist doctrine.

Offertory Envelopes

Alf has returned a little earlier from his holiday than he had anticipated, but just in time to attend the Parish Council on Wednesday evening.

He was keen to remind us all that we are still praying for 10 parishioners who will sign up to the ADF to make their Automatic Worship Offerings. So far 3 new accounts have been spotted — it is entirely anonymous, so we don't know who they are from. But thank you to those who have signed up.

It is almost time to pick up a new set of envelopes for the year, so perhaps it is also a chance to consider swapping to the different way of making an offering to the parish.

Keep praying for those 10 people! — Rev'd Elizabeth



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!

- **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: No trivia quiz this week as I'm relinquishing editor duties.

Last Week: Arrange the following people in the order of their birth: Shem (son of Noah), Terah (father of Abram), Joshua (led Israelites into promised land), Naomi (mother of Ruth), Uriah (husband of Bathsheba), Daniel (prophet), Elizabeth (cousin of Mary), Mark (gospel writer), Jerome (translator of Bible into Latin).

Does Change Excite or Exit you?

Change in a community can be exciting and also a scary process. It is recognised by most parishioners that our precious, but dwindling, not to mention ageing, group of worshippers in this parish will need to face some change to the way we exist in the next year.

The parish AGM is approaching in late November, and even though this may seem like extremely early notice, Rev'd Elizabeth is asking us each to start thinking prayerfully whether you would like to be an active part of that change.

The easiest and most direct way to be a part of how this parish rediscovers itself, is to consider joining the Parish Council. Nomination papers will be made available in due course, but please start praying about this now.

