



From the Vicar's desk: A Reflection for Pentecost 23

I am going to let Pdraig O'Tuama the Spirituality of Conflict blogger provide most of the pew reflection this morning for this Sunday School favourite. And yet the familiarity and child-like elements of this story belie the complexity of the chapter and of this story's importance as the keystone for the whole.

Jesus has had a series of encounters with people who want something from him. The religious leaders wanted to bracket him in or out according to his exact interpretation of a disputed point of theology. The rich man sought to add to his store of wealth by acquiring an entitlement to the Kingdom. And two foolish disciples thought to steal a march on the rest of the insiders by claiming positions of power. Together they represent the traditional sources of power in our world, religious, economic and political.

In between these encounters Jesus is constantly taking time with his followers who simply don't get it. Instead Jesus tells them greatness comes through service and those who place themselves last will have a prominent place in the Kingdom which is coming. And as a practical example, in the face of those who would wield religious, economic and political power for their own ends, Jesus meets the children and says that the Kingdom is received like a child, vulnerable, powerless and dependent. Then comes the Bartimaeus story.

The story is told very precisely. We note that Bartimaeus is sitting begging on the way out of Jericho. His persistence annoys the crowd, but all he is looking for is mercy, not theological exactitude, nor economic benefit, not even a humble place among the elite. And yet his way to the centre is barred by those who continue to misunderstand what it is to follow Jesus along the way.

But Bartimaeus is determined and he finally gets to meet Jesus. The telling of this story contrasts with all the other encounters. There is no cynicism in the man, in contrast to the religious leaders. Bartimaeus throws aside a precious possession, his cloak, in order to follow Jesus, unlike the rich man who couldn't forego his things. And he approaches at Jesus' invitation, rather than presume to have a place like James and John mistakenly did, which is perhaps why Jesus pointedly asks him exactly the same question he asked James and John after their bizarre demand. Bartimaeus, the poor, blind man, begging on the way out of the city demonstrates by his answer to this question that he understands far more than those hungry for religious, economic and political power.

"I want to see."

..... What more could any of us ask for?

The Lord be with you and those for whom you pray.

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*

October 28th 2018

**Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
Ordinary Sunday 30**

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 - Tuesday (until 19th November)

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.

MINISTRY TEAM

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

Father Jim Minchin on leave

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

Mrs Wilma Farrell 5244 5537; Pastoral Ministry

Parish web-site: www.bgap.church

Direct payments donation account: BSB 703 122 A/c #0500 4734 (identify recipient)

Today's Readings

Job 42.1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34.1-8 (19-22)
Hebrews 7.21-28
Mark 10.46-52

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 25.6-9 or Wisdom 3.1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21.1-6a
John 11.32-44

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: Jan Long, Heather Rea, Joyce Rowe - all 29th

Prayers for Healing: Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of the following people who are on our hearts: Jack & Ria Humphrey, Alan, Matthew R, Trudy, Joel, Colin, Ray & Harrison family, Pat, Val & John, Des M, Ann, Barbara S, Pam, Barb, Cassie & family.



(We would like to keep this list current so we need to know how your loved ones are faring. Please let us know. If you have any names, please let Alf know but only after obtaining permission from the person involved.)

Electoral Roll

It is now time to invite worshipers (old and new) to check whether your name is on the parish Electoral Roll. You need to be over 18 years old and have attended one or other of the parish worship centres 12 or more times this year, and particularly have attended three times in the last three months. In this parish we have carefully and sensitively maintained a roll that reflects the current numbers of worshipers at each centre and across the parish.

Forms are available to have your name added to the Electoral Roll, so that we can display the updated list in good time for our annual meeting on 25th November. They must be returned by Sunday November 4th. Any queries, please contact Rev'd Elizabeth.

Fashion Parade: Friday 2nd November, 7 pm @ St Barnabas'. Tickets are available from Bonnie Dendle, Margaret Dickson or Marlene Lacey - Adults \$15 Children free.

If anyone can help with some supper or a raffle prize on the night it would be very much appreciated.



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

For your diary:

November 2nd	Fashion Parade @ St Barnabas', 7.00 pm
November 4th	Electoral Roll applications close
November 4th	Heaven Cent Committee nominations close
November 8th	Heaven Cent AGM
November 11th	Pearly Gates Committee nominations close
November 11th	Remembrance Day Services @ St Mark's (details below)
November 15th	Pearly Gates AGM
November 18th	Nominations for Parish Council close 7.59 am
November 25th	Combined Service @ St Mark's, 9.30 am
November 25th	Parish Annual Meeting @ St Mark's, 11ish after service

Closing date for Parish Council nominations: Please note that an incorrect closing date was published last week. *Nominations have to be received before the start of the first service on the Sunday immediately preceding the annual meeting.* All nominations must be received by the wardens or Rev'd Elizabeth by 7.59 am on 18th November.

Annual Meetings:

Volunteers are wanted and will be most welcome to fill positions on the Op Shop Management Committees and Parish Council. Please give the matter serious and prayerful thought and consider nominating for a position.

Nomination forms for the Op Shops and Parish Council are now available.

** Each Op Shop needs a secretary, treasurer and five other members

** Parish Council needs three Wardens and six other members

Heaven Cent: AGM Thursday 8th, 12.30 pm at The Hub, General Meeting to follow, Nominations close Sunday 4th

Pearly Gates: AGM Thursday 15th, 2.00 pm in the Moller Room, Nominations close Sunday 11th

Remembrance Day Services at St Mark's Sunday 11th November; 8 am Communion service as usual; 10.30 am Community Memorial Service at Leopold War Memorial, Melaluka Road, Leopold.

Thank you: Bob Smith (of the holding cross fame) has made us a fabulous outdoors notice board which has been installed outside St Barnabas', so that we can communicate to all and sundry how we receive God's love in this parish. The Parish Council and Rev'd Elizabeth are very grateful for another fantastic application of Bob's gifts within the parish.

