

Reflection for Epiphany 2:

Have you ever noticed how in some churches there sometimes seems to be something like a hierarchy of service? Well, in this season of Epiphany, we are encouraged to open our eyes and see the world anew, in fact to see the world as God would like it to be. The first thing that we need to understand is that it doesn't matter whether you serve as Warden, flower arranger, priest or cleaner. There is no hierarchy, and we serve equally. We need to realise that people offer to God and the church a great deal of themselves each depending upon their gifts, time and ability.

This struggle with "your service is more spiritual / worthy / pious / humble / whatever than mine" is nothing new. In fact, I suspect that the virtual service pecking order is as old as Christianity. St Paul wrote to the good, but tricky, people of Corinth about this very topic. Here's what he said:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

When you next serve at Communion, clean the toilets, dust the flowers (ah, the beauty of fake flowers!!), count the money, read the prayers, visit the sick, open the Word, help in the Op Shop, or serve the teas – please remind yourself that you do this not for yourself, but because you are inspired in perfect measure by the Holy Spirit to worship God through service.

For in this season of Epiphany, now is the time to see again that we were created to glorify God, and to give thanks for all the blessings we receive. Does that make cleaning dusty hymn books seem a little easier?

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*

January 20th 2019

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

No services during January
Services resume February 6th @ St Barnabas'

Morning Prayer @ St Barnabas' - 9 am

Mon - Tue - Wed - Fri - Sat

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 0427 056 654, frjbminchin@gmail.com
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

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Next Week's Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Luke 4:14-21

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.



Prayers for Healing: Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of the following people who are on our hearts: Joe, John M, Travers family; Hooper/Travers families; Sheila S; Amy, baby & Roscoe; Jack & Ria Humphrey, Matthew R, Colin, Pat, Val & John, 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.)

Known Happy Birthdays: Barbara King 25th

Our closeness to God is what he desires more than anything and the prophet Isaiah expresses this through the image of that sacred institution, Marriage. God's people are close to him like a bride is close to her bridegroom, and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so God rejoices over his people. Now, we receive so many gifts through the Spirit every day, often without us fully appreciating them or even being aware of them. The goal of these gifts is for us to draw closer to God and to bring others close to him as well. We might like to think about how we can use the gifts we are given to make our salvation 'shine out like a torch' and bring more joy to God.

Pray for the awareness of God's Spirit active in our lives and in the life of the Church, that we might cultivate and refine our gifts and draw closer to God.

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

For your diary:

Monday Crafternoon Tea in recess during January
Saturday February 2nd Men's Breakfast, Leopold U.C. 7.30 am, details tba

Parish Council Report: The Parish Council held a Planning Meeting on Friday, from 9.30 to 12.30, at St Marks. The meeting began with Morning Prayer and a reflection on today's NT reading. Fruitful discussions were held on a range of issues. Michael Dougall and Yann-Chu Thien were appointed as Churchwardens to fill the two warden vacancies on Council. A calendar of High Day services and Combined Services was determined.

Lectionary: If you would like a copy of the 2019 Lectionary, please contact Rev'd Elizabeth or Father Jim.

Vicar's leave: Rev'd Elizabeth is taking a break with her family from Monday 21st to Monday 28th January.

Lenten Studies: Preparations for a Lenten Study series are underway, watch this space for more details.

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Smile: Did you know that Moses was the first person to ride a motorcycle?

It's in the Old Testament. It reads: "Moses' triumph could be heard all over Israel."



In Good Spirits

Stories are told of the strength and longevity of ivy and of its ability to hold up masonry walls, but here's a true (?) story of its cunning:

A root of the ivy growing on the walls of Magdalen College at Oxford University groped its way into the wine cellar, made its way into the cork of a bottle - and drank all the port inside!

(From Gary Ord's Friendship Book)

Surrender to God - and Win
(Seen by a parishioner in a Swan Hill church)