

Last week Rev'd Elizabeth urged parishioners to read through the various appeals for friendship, accommodation and connection with the new Iraqi Christian community that is forming in Geelong. This is a chance for us to be at the forefront of offering great extravagant hospitality to our Christian brothers and sisters. Christ himself was a refugee in Egypt where he and his family found extravagant hospitality before their return to Israel.

iConnect

Helping to connect Iraqi Christian refugee families with Australian Christian families.

This is an invitation to an information evening regarding creation of a list of families from Anglican parishes in Geelong to be host families with like Iraqi Christian families now settled in Corio and North Geelong.

**St Stephens Anglican Church
Meeting Room**

42 Regent Street

Wednesday 11th January @ 7.00 pm

If each parish of the Geelong Archdeaconry could send at least one representative who would be interested and energised in being a contact person within their own parish, this meeting will explain the intention of this valuable ministry:

- * to create a list of host families from parishes to be connected to like Iraqi families
- * to provide informal coaching in English as a second language
- * to strengthen sense of belonging within the community

Wanted - A Room

A young baptised, Christian Iraqi male is seeking accommodation. He wants to join in Christian activities and make a contribution to Australia.

If you are interested/able to help, or know of somebody who might be, in either of these matters, please speak to Rev'd Elizabeth.

Vicar's Reflection: (From previous page)

Have you had a moment when you realised God was with you? When you had your moment of Epiphany that changed your life? I wonder what it was. God bless you and all those you pray for.

Elizabeth

Please note: Material for inclusion in Pew Sheets should be given to Alf by Wednesday even-



*Welcome
to
Worship in Our Parish*

January 9th 2017

**First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of our Lord**

Service Times

Sundays

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

Monday - Friday 9:15 am
Morning Prayer @ St Barnabas'

Wednesday - 10:00 am
There will be no Wednesday services during January

Our 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, frjbmichin@gmail.com

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

Mrs Wilma Farrell 5244 5537 Pastoral Ministry

Mrs Jan Long 0414 823 132 Residential Care Ministry

Parish web-site: www.bgap.church

Today's Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

A Continuing Prayer For The Parish

'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

Bible Reflection: In the Gospel reading we are given an opportunity to celebrate the baptism of Christ the Messiah. He was baptized by John in the River Jordan to show us that Jesus appreciated his humanity – the essence of incarnation. This points to us that God chooses to use the ordinary to perform the extraordinary. The most important thing is to yield to the will of God for his grace to flow. John wanted to refuse to baptize Jesus because he (John) thought he was not qualified to do so from his human standpoint but when he submitted to the will of God, he did this ministry of baptizing Jesus and the River Jordan, the ordinary river. Many times we feel we are not worthy of doing a given assignment in the Church because we are entangled by our past. God is calling us to surrender our limitations and our imperfections to him and invite him to use us as he will. The baptism of Jesus also should remind us to renew our baptismal vows as we renew our faith.

Reflection written by *The Rt Rev Paul Korir Bishop of Kapsabet, Anglican Church of Kenya* © Anglican Board of Mission, 2016

Thank you to the people who came along for the Twelfth Day of Christmas Fun Night. **Thank you** to the cooks who prepared a large variety of dishes – both savouries and desserts. There was a good selection of quiches to choose from. A special **Thank you** to the many people who cleared the tables and washed the dishes. It was done quickly and efficiently. Many hands make light work!!



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

For your diary:

Sunday January 29th Combined Service @ St Paul's, 9.30 am

Saturday February 4th Men's Breakfast @ Leopold UC, 7.30 am

Vicar's Reflection - Epiphany 1A

It was an ordinary "business as usual" day for John the Baptist, the day that he and Jesus came face to face. There he was, admonishing self-righteous religious types to sort out their act before asking for forgiveness, and directly asking others if they were ready to acknowledge the foolish and wrong acts they had done in their lives. Why was he doing this? Why did he have a crowd of folk queuing up to be dunked into the murky waters of the Jordan? My answer is that he was convinced, utterly convinced, that he was a prophet sent by God to prepare people for the imminent arrival of their Saviour, their Messiah, who would forgive all their sins and set them on the right path with God.

And then, there he was. Somehow, John knew, somehow John saw in a completely new way what God had promised all along. Here in the queue with all the other ordinary people was a man so ordinary, so like us, and yet so completely unlike us. There was something special, something that made you want to reach out and touch him. A power that snapped and crackled around him, a power of promise as yet unrealised.

There was a moment of recognition, an epiphany for John, between the men of John wanting to bow down to Jesus, yet Jesus needing John to fulfil his part, so that he was cleansed and made ready, as if he was entering the Holiest part of the Temple. As if that wasn't enough, all those in the crowd, both the soggy recently baptised and the dry as a bone folk in the queue had an epiphany too. They saw an ordinary bloke go under the green water of the Jordan, and something amazing, otherworldly happen as he leapt back up gasping for air. Something lighter than air that was described as a dove, alighted on him and a voice said "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased".

No longer a "business as usual" kind of day, but the beginning of something very big and special. The day they welcomed God amongst them.

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