

Dates for the Diary

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| Tuesday | 10am | Friendship Group |
| Wednesday | 6am | St John's Golf group |
| | 7.30pm | GFS Women's Group |
| Thursday | 10am | Lenten Study |
| Sunday 22 nd March | 7.30 & 9am | Archbishop Kay visit |
| Saturday 28 th March | 10am | Trip to Mandurah |

GFS Women's Group meets this Wednesday at 7.30pm. Come along for a natter, some delicious food, and drinks. We'll be putting some bags together for the morning tea on 21st March at 9.30am to help raise funds to get a second Naomi House up and running. Naomi House provides a safe place for older women escaping domestic violence.

This Year's Lenten Studies – called *Becoming People of Hope Today* has been produced by TEAR Australia. Study 2 – *Between* is this week's theme. Come join us, even if you missed the first study, and we'll delve into the word together.

Confirmation – if you would like to be baptised, confirmed or reaffirm your baptism vows please speak with the Reverend Josie. Bishop Jeremy will be coming to the parish on 3rd May to conduct the service.



*Happy birthday to Jeff Edwick & Kate
Bradley on 11th; Evelyn Hamilton on 12th*

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| Wardens - | Noeleen Stewart | Phone: 0414 505 064 |
| | Judith Smith | Phone: 9246 3745 |
| Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler | | Phone: 0421 115 438 |

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Welcome to Worship

Lent 2

8th March 2020



We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- Know God personally
- Love and respect one another deeply
- Disciple and serve those around us

Sentence: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

Collect of the Day

God of mercy,
you are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy,
and always ready to forgive:
grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling
to Christ,
that in every way we may prove to be your
loving children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Gen 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Next Week:

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42



Lent 2 - *Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

The Pharisee and teacher Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the middle of the night (in John's Gospel, night/darkness symbolizes the lack of faith/light). A man of learning, Nicodemus is one of the Jewish elites who were favourably disposed toward Jesus but were struggling to grasp the full meaning of his teachings. For the writer of the Fourth Gospel, Nicodemus represents exactly the kind of timid

disciple the evangelist seeks to persuade to come forward and openly profess his/her faith in Jesus as the Christ.

In their exchange, Jesus explains that the kingdom of God he proclaims transcends time and place, that God's reign is a state of being: to enter the realm of God demands an interior transformation in the Spirit. Invoking the image of Moses' staff of a bronze serpent raised to save the Israelites from the bite of poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:9), Jesus foretells his own crucifixion, when he will be "lifted up" for the glory of God and the salvation of humankind. And, in one of the most famous verses in John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of a God who is motivated by love so great that the Father has given the world his own Son not to condemn but to save.

Despite our own life's experience, wealth and status, we are incomplete and lost until we are "reborn in water and the Spirit": to be immersed in the Gospel principles of justice and reconciliation, to be transformed in God's spirit of humility and compassion.

To be "born in the Spirit" is to see things with the eyes of God, to honour what God honours, to love as God loves us. The kingdom of God that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel transcends boundaries and labels, stereotypes and traditions, the colour of flags and the colour of skin. In God's eyes, we are all his children; in God's heart, we are all brothers and sisters to one another.

While we tend to see God as the great cosmic Ruler, a mysterious Being totally detached from us and removed from the human experience, Jesus reveals God as a loving Father who created us and our world out of love and seeks to restore his beloved creation through an even greater act of love: God's becoming human himself in order that his beloved humanity might realize God's dream of becoming holy and sacred.

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Dear Heavenly Father,
thank you for the opportunity to serve you and others who are in the most vulnerable positions. Despite the realities surrounding us being bitter, help us to continue working towards our eternal benefits. Continue to lead and guide us for the expansion of your kingdom. Help us to bring comfort and hope and show your everlasting love to those defeated in spirit. Thank you because we believe you hear us when we ask you. Amen. *Enelesi Chipandwe, Reformed Open Community Schools, Zambia*

Please pray for: Paul; Colleen & Ted; Marge; Lynne; Frances; Rowan; Isla; Hieko; Brad; Peter; Lois; Jill, Albert, Ivan; Suzie; Jan; Dan; Stuart; Jean; John, Wendy & family

