

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am
Thursday Reverend Josie at church @ 10am – Noon
Sunday 18 Oct Bring in Shoe Boxes to be blessed

NAME BADGES – it would be great if everyone would start wearing their name badges again so we can get to know each other's name. If you don't have one please write your name on the sheet in the foyer and we'll get a badge made for you.

OUR THANK YOU SUNDOWNER – will be on Saturday 17th October between 4 – 6pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to come along and enjoy some nibbles, soft drink, wine, beer, coffee or tea. Please put your name on the notice in the hall so we know how many we're catering for.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – is fast approaching. If you can help with some donations towards items for the raffle and cake ingredients, please place them in the boxes in the foyer.

Please pray for: Paul; Colleen & Ted; Lynne; Frances; Isla; Peter; Albert, Ivan; Jean; Peggy; Jodi; Jan; Siew; Dennis & Dorothy; Simon, Neville, Toni & Noel



*Happy birthday to Lynda Read for today;
Ashleigh Watene on 28th; Michael Born & Shirley
Olliver on 29th*

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

Electronic giving: Account Name - Anglican Parish Greenwood
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Welcome to Worship



Pentecost 17

27th September 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

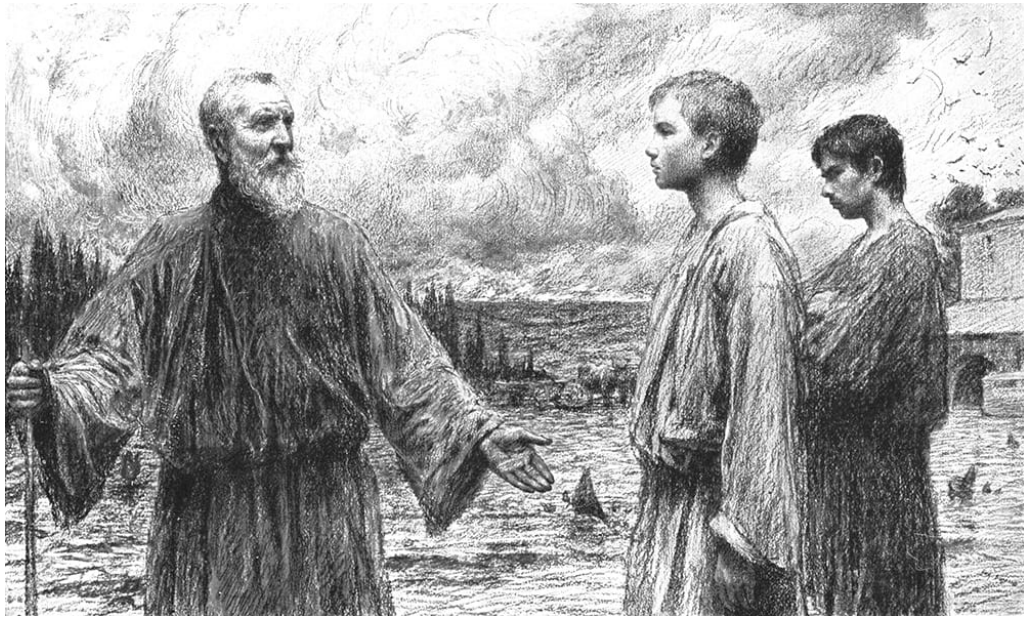
Sentence: Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him.
Hosea 6:1a, 2b

Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in
Christ Jesus, who emptied himself, and took the
form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

Today's readings:
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 11-16
Philippians 2
Matthew 21:23-32

Next Week:
Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3
Matthew 21:33-46



Pentecost 17 – Matthew 21:23-32

The parable of the two sons: “Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.”

Today’s parable of the two sons is a devastating condemnation of the Jewish religious leaders whose faith is confined to words and rituals. Jesus states unequivocally that those the self-righteous consider to be the very antithesis of religious will be welcomed by God into his presence before the “professional” religious.

Prostitutes and tax collectors were the most despised outcasts in Judaism. In light of the First Testament tradition of God’s relationship with Israel as a “marriage” and Israel’s disloyalty as “harlotry,” prostitution was considered an especially heinous sin. Tax collectors were, in the eyes of Palestinian Jews, the very personification of corruption and theft. According to the Roman system of tax collection, tax collectors (also called publicans) would pay the state a fixed sum based on the theoretical amount of taxes due from a given region. The publican, in return, had the right to collect the taxes in that region – and they were not above using terrorism and extortion to collect. Tax

collectors, as agents of the state, were also shunned as collaborators with Israel’s Roman captors.

Jesus’ declaration that those guilty of the most abhorrent of sins would enter God’s kingdom before them deepened the Jewish establishment’s animosity toward Jesus.

Jesus’ simple story of the two sons takes the Gospel out of the realm of the “theoretical” and places the mercy of God into the midst of our messy, complicated everyday lives. Compassion, forgiveness and mercy are only words until our actions give full expression to those values in our relationships with others; our calling ourselves Christians and disciples of Jesus means nothing until our lives express that identity in the values will uphold and the beliefs we live.

The words of the Gospel must be lived; Jesus’ teachings on justice, reconciliation and love must be the light that guides us, the path we walk, the prayer we work to make a reality. Discipleship begins within our hearts, where we realize Christ’s presence in our lives and in the lives of others and then honouring that presence in meaningful acts of compassion and charity.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shatters labels and stereotypes in order to uphold the sacred dignity of all men and women in the eyes of God. Christ calls us to move beyond our own contemporary version of the designations of “tax collector” and “prostitute” to recognize, instead, the holiness that resides within the soul of every person, who is, like us, a child of God.

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