

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 10am  
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am  
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am  
Parish Council meet @ 7pm  
Thursday Rev Josie at Church from 10am – 12 noon  
Sat 7/11 Christmas Fair from 9am – 1.30pm

**OUR THANK YOU SUNDOWNER** – it was good to see so many smiling faces enjoying time together in the glorious Spring weather. A huge thank you to Jennifer, Scott and Hugh who set up, served and helped put the magnificent spread and drinks together. To those who couldn't make it, please know we really do value all you do for St John's throughout the year.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November between 9 – 1.30pm is fast approaching. If you can assist, please speak with the Reverend Josie.

**CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE 5 - 5.30PM** – invitations are still open for children of all ages who would be interested in participating in this year's Nativity Play. If you know someone who might be interested either phone Jennifer Stephens, on 0407371204 or let Josie know. All costumes are provided.

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



*Happy birthday to Marilyn Chapman on 23<sup>rd</sup>*

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

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## Welcome to Worship



## Pentecost 20

18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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**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

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**Sentence:** Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.  
Matthew 22:21

### Collect of the Day

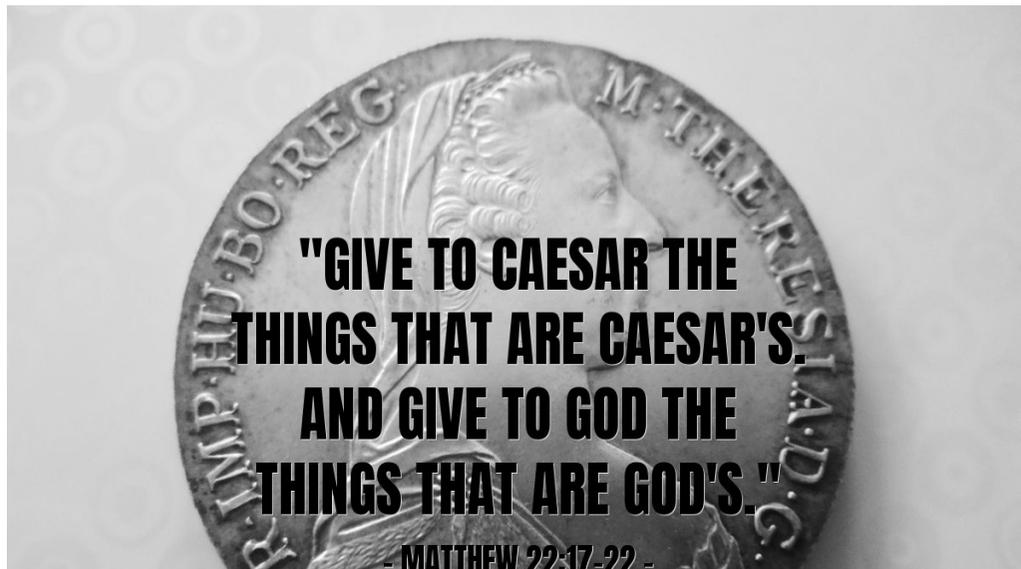
Almighty and everlasting God,  
In Christ you have revealed your glory among  
The nations: grant that your church throughout  
The world may persevere with steadfast faith  
In proclaiming the cross to be the way that  
Leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
Of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Today's readings:

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-33

### Next Week:

Deut 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-13  
Matthew 22:34-46



## Pentecost 20 – Matthew 22:15-21

*“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”*

In today’s Gospel, two opponents of Jesus, the Pharisees and Herodians (supporters of Herod’s dynasty), join forces to trap Jesus. If Jesus affirms that taxes should be paid, he alienates the religious nationalists; if he denies that taxes should be paid, then he is subject to arrest by the Romans as a political revolutionary. But the very fact that his inquisitors could produce the emperor’s coin from one of their purses was to admit a Roman obligation: If one used the sovereign’s coin then one automatically took on an obligation to the sovereign; in other words, the Pharisees and Herodians, in trying to trap Jesus, answered their own question. But Jesus takes the debate to an even higher level by challenging them to be just as observant in paying their debt to God.

The confrontation over Caesar’s coin is not a solution to any church-versus-state controversy; Jesus’ response to the Pharisees confronts them – and us – with the demand to act out of our convictions and to take responsibility for our actions.

Jesus appeals to us to look beyond the simplistic politics and black-and-white legalisms represented by the coin and realise that we are called to embrace the values centered in a faith that sees the hand of God in all things and every human being as part of a single family under the providence of God.

The Pharisees who confront Jesus with Caesar’s coin are trying to trap him into making a choice between one’s country and God. But Jesus’ response indicates that one’s citizenship does not have to be at odds with one’s faith; in fact, when government seeks to provide for the just welfare of its citizens, it becomes a vehicle for establishing the reign of God.

God and Caesar do not have to be at odds, Jesus tells the Pharisees. In God, we realise the dignity of every man, woman and child as sons and daughters of God and our brothers and sisters; in setting up systems of government, we provide for the common good of one another and protect the welfare of all, providing for public safety, educational opportunities and clean water and air.

Jesus’ answers are not the clear, unambiguous solutions we hope for to these and many other questions. But his response is the heart of living our faith: the struggle to return to God what is God’s. Through prayer and discernment, each one of us has to do for ourselves the hard work of deciding exactly what is God’s will in our complex world of politics, money and human relationships.

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