



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 636, MP 31, TIS 134, vv1-3,5, TIS 456)

Sunday 9 am: Family Communion (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: MP 1086, MP 170, MP 54, MP 1259)

* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

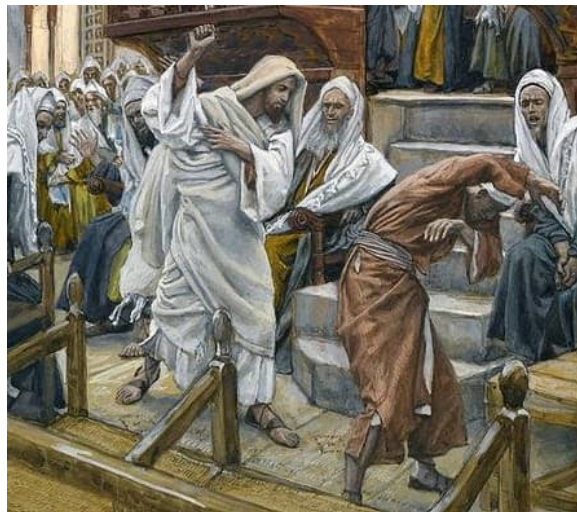
Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

Matthew 9.35

Rev'd Timothy writes...

As we continue our Epiphany journey, reading what the gospel writers tell us of Jesus, today's passage from Mark positions Jesus as a man of authority, a healer and as someone to be trusted.

Jesus is in Capernaum, the hometown of Peter, and goes into the synagogue to teach; a pretty normal occurrence. But, what is different here is the unusual response Jesus receives; the people are astounded. Jesus is not like so many other teachers they have heard. He does not cite a series of authorities. He does not cite learned references or facts, one upon the other. Instead, he teaches out of his own authority; it is his own truth that he speaks from.



The passage does not tell us what Jesus said (in contrast to Matthew's sermon on the mount) but rather what he did. The adage 'actions speak louder than words' is apposite here. Jesus is demonstrating the truth that he has come to bring a new creation, a fresh interpretation on what has gone before, the reign of God.

We might be uneasy at hearing stories of exorcisms and healings, as our world view differs markedly from that of Jesus' time, but the underlying message remains that the way things are doesn't mean that is the way things must stay. The reign of God promises more, whether the 'more' can be realized now or in a far-off future.



Given the current increase in the presence of COVID, if you are feeling unwell please stay home and rest. You can join our 9am service on Zoom. Details of how to do this are included with the weekly parish email.

If you are rostered for a task, don't worry, we will fill your spot.



Readings for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

First reading (7am only)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.

¹⁶ This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.'

¹⁷ Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalms 111

¹ O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:

in the company of the upright and among the congregation.

² The works of the Lord are great: and studied by all who take delight in them.

³ His deeds are majestic and glorious: and his righteousness stands for ever.

⁴ His marvellous acts have won him a name to be remembered:

the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He gives food to those that fear him: he remembers his covenant for ever.

⁶ He showed his people the power of his acts: in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just: and all his commandments are sure;

⁸ They stand firm for ever and ever: they are done in faithfulness and in truth.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever: holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments: his praise shall endure for ever.

Second Reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶ yet for us there is one

God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Mark

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1: 21-28

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Coming through the Holy Places

Sometimes a place feels holy because of rich cultural history, or it is built and adorned to inspire praise. But can people make places feel holy just by offering simple kindness? This week we see that it is often the people in a place that imbue it with holiness when they speak the truth in love.

Epiphany can happen anywhere to anyone. Psalm 111 lists the miraculous ways God shows up in the way we are nourished, the way we understand our cultural heritage, and the way we act justly toward one another in community. This psalm informs our reading of 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 and explains that knowing right from wrong is not as important as knowing how to care for one another. Paul begs us not to wound one another with quick wit. He had personal experience with enforcing the spiritual law

he studied before his conversion. He teaches the church in Corinth that they may feel tempted to outsmart each other. As we experience the fullness of love through the ways God provides for all of us, we learn to depend on one another so we may see God in new places and new people.

When we think of a prophet, we might think of a person with special powers to see the future and predict what will occur in our lives. Deuteronomy 18:15–20 describes one prophet in particular, “like you from among their own people...” This person is not charged with fortune-telling but instead is empowered to support exhausted preachers as they continue their work among a disengaged assembly. A prophet will speak God’s words in God’s name, and God will hold everyone accountable. God’s word can show up in surprising ways if that is what we need.

In Mark 1:21–28, Jesus shows up in a surprising way – as a teacher with a difference. The scribes of the day gathered their teaching skills through scholarship, knowledge, and studying precedence. Mark presents Jesus as one who teaches with the independent authority of God and the backing of his deeds. Jesus demonstrated a divine authority that had not been seen before and was perceived as a threat to the scribes. Jesus’ treatment of the ill was amazing. His actions disrupted social norms. Social, political, and religious authorities came to view Jesus as a blasphemer and revolutionary.

The exorcism seems of secondary importance in this story. Jesus has the divine authority to drive out the unclean spirit living in the person he encountered in the synagogue – whatever the unclean spirit is. The healing amazed the people who saw what happened, but they were more amazed by the authority with which Jesus acted.

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Prophecy, blessings, conversions, and teaching can occur on street corners, prisons, and shantytowns just as often as they occur in synagogues, temples, and chapels. Epiphany is not always a matter of where we encounter God; it may be a question of who journeys with us as we come through the holy places. Which begs the question, how are we a part of the holy places? Do we carry them within ourselves? What if the holiest places are not a church or cathedral but carried in our hearts and minds?

Seasons of the Spirit

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Dates for your diary

13th February: 6pm – Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday (venue TBA)



14th February: 9.30am and 6.30pm – Services for Ash Wednesday

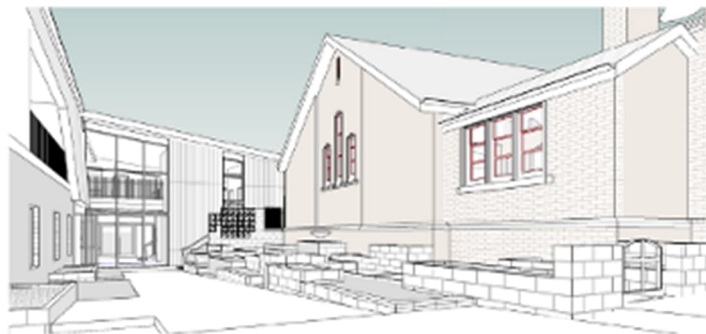


18th February: 10.30am – Annual Parish Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

Redevelopment News

An initial meeting was held with the builders and the diocesan team during last week. The current estimate is that the builders will be on site around the middle of February.



Hall and office clear out

Working bees will continue to be held on Saturdays 3 and 10 February to clear out the halls and parish centre. All are welcome to come along and help whenever you are available.

If anyone has space that could be used for storage during the build, such as an unused garage, please speak to the Wardens.

The Parish Council also discussed ways in which we can use the church during the build including to continue to offer meeting spaces and refreshments after services. We will be temporarily removing three pews at the back of church on the north side to facilitate this.

Prayer:

Please join with me in giving thanks to God that our redevelopment project is now going ahead, and pray for all that needs to be done in both the preparation for the build, and to keep our ministries going during the build.

Church News

The next edition of Church News will be out in March.

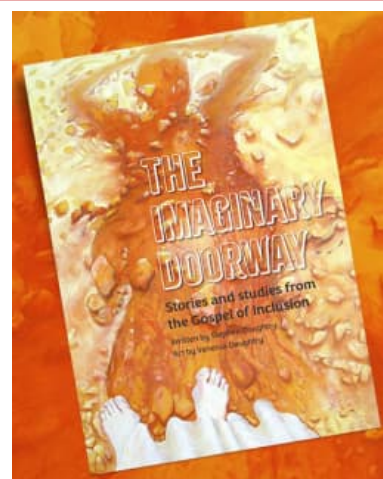
Now is the time to send articles and photos for inclusion to Honor phlawler@optusnet.com.au phone 0410 423 446.

Please send by 15th February



Lent Study

Our Parish Lent study this year will be 'The imaginary doorway', from the Australian Board of Mission (ABM). This takes encounters that Jesus has with different people, such as Legion and Zacchaeus and invites us to take an



imaginative journey into their lives. As we consider how Jesus made such people whole we see links to ABM's contemporary mission.

Tuesday's 10am or Thursday 7.30pm, starting 13th/15th February. Speak to Rev'd Timothy or June if you are interested in joining us.

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

The World

Pray for those affected by the winds and rain associated with tropical cyclone Kirrily, and for emergency and medical workers

Anglican Communion

The Diocese of Anglican Church of Southern Africa
The Parish of Beenleigh: Alan Moore – Locum, Frank Phillips
Youth, Children's & Families Ministry: Elissa Cotroneo

Our missionary partners

Bruce and Libby, serving with CMS in South Asia.

Our parish

Pray for the recommencement of Children's Church for the year; for the leaders and the children, that they might learn together.

Local Schools & Colleges

Marshall Road Primary, Salisbury Primary, Yeronga Primary

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNicol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Rita Johnson, Sharon L.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

28 January: Elaine Clare Anthon; *30 January:* Albert Clarence Patterson; *31 January:* Lillian May Stabler, John Bickford Byrne, James Fred O'Hara Bowler; *1 February:* Kevin White, Dianne Margaret Toms, Jane Onini Markotsis; *2 February:* Deidre Joy Feeney, *3 February:* Charlotte Emily Williams.

St Luke's Connect

The first St Luke's Connect will be held this week on Wednesday 31st January.

Service at 9.30am followed at 10am by morning tea and a talk by June McNicol on her memories of being a child in England during WW2.

All welcome.



Children's Church resumes THIS WEEK



Episcopal Visit

Next Sunday at both our 7am and 9am services we will be joined by the Rt Rev'd John Roundhill, Bishop of the southern Region.



Services This Week:

Tuesday—Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Wednesday 31st January

9.30am: Holy Communion (St Luke's)

Sunday 4th February

(5th Sunday after Epiphany)

7am: Holy Communion

9am: Family Communion (St Lukes's / Zoom) with Children's Church

Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

Keep in touch:

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Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)
Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)
Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):
Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820
BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR
code to give
online:



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