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# St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 225

MAY, 1970

Rector :

Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B. St.J., Th.L., Dip. C.C.A.C.  
Phone 2 3186

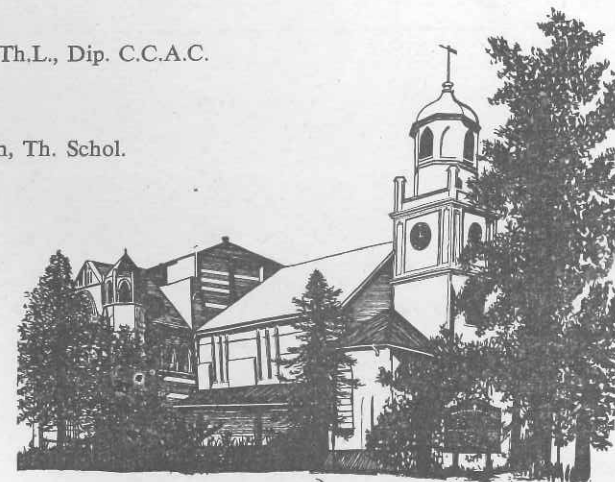
Assistant Priest :

The Reverend Murray Johnson, Th. Schol.

Parish Sister :

Miss Jenny Shaw, Th.A.

Organist :

Mr. Lindsay O'Neill,  
F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.  
Phone 31 2998

### THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear People of St. John's,

May 8th is for many of our citizens to be Moratorium Day, a day of protest against the war in Vietnam. Some leading church men have expressed support for it, others have condemned it as "a threat to public order". Many will support it for pure motives, others for base and selfish ones. Where do we stand? St. Peter in his First Letter makes the fullest statement given us in Biblical teachings (1 Peter 2:13-17).

Speaking about our loyalty St. Peter makes it plain that though our citizenship is in heaven, the Christian is also a citizen of a particular earthly state. It is the teaching of the Church that we are to be good citizens of our country, readily and ungrudgingly shouldering our civic responsibilities, and recognising the lawful claims of the State upon us as citizens.

This raises a difficulty, experienced by many Christians in the world today, when one's loyalty to God and one's loyalty to the civil power seem to conflict.

Those to whom Peter wrote were facing persecution, but he urged submission to authority, for God rules through kings and those in authority. Freedom is a great blessing, but we are not to incite rebellion, we must learn to "submit", not to be concerned with our own rights. Christians cannot side with open rebellion, and armed resistance to authority. If the laws are contrary to justice and the clear ruling of God they may be passively, but not actively, resisted.

This does not mean that Christians must keep out of politics, or support, as of necessity, the "status quo", or become a revolutionary. He may do any of these, but he is to make his decision under God. As a general guide, however, it is well to remember that "Man is not an individual only, but a social unit. It is not permitted to man to arrange his life as he will apart from society. If all men did this, or if any considerable body of men did this, the result would be general anarchy."

The Christian position is not easy either to understand or to practice. However, it is clear that if the State, or any group within it, makes demands which conflict with our duty to God, and make impossible our fulfilling that duty, there is then no question to resolve for "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29).

Yours in Christ's service,

HUGH GIRVAN.

## CALENDAR FOR MAY

- 1 Friday, 8 p.m. St. John's Boy Scouts Annual Meeting. 8 p.m. Church of Christ, Margaret St. Youth Rally. Evangelical Alliance of Tasmania. Speaker: Dr. Andrew Gih.
- 3 Rogation Sunday, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.45 a.m. Family Service. 11 a.m. Holy Harvest Festival. Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 4 Monday, 8 p.m. Mothers' Union Committee at Rectory.
- 6 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7 Thursday, Ascension. 8.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, Chalmers Presbyterian Church. Preacher: The Rev. Hugh Girvan.
- 10 Sunday, Ascension I. 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Matins. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 11 Monday, 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 12 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Fellowship Tea.
- 13 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 14 Thursday, 3 p.m. Order of St. Luke. Speaker: Roy Parsons. 8 p.m. Guild. 8 p.m. Healing Service, Paterson Street Methodist Church.
- 17 Whitsunday. 8 a.m. Holy Communion followed by Communion Breakfast. 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 19 Tuesday, 5.15 p.m. Bankers' Service. 8 p.m. Evening Mothers' Union.
- 24 Trinity Sunday, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Matins. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 26 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. G.F.S. Annual Meeting at Rectory.
- 27 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 31 Trinity I. 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Matins. 7 p.m. Holy Communion.

## CHRISTIAN ACTION CAMPAIGN

Living the Christian life involves us in both faith and works, in loving and in expressing our love.

This age has preferred the word care to love and so we are told to care for others. In this the Church leads the field. It does more than most of us know for the aged, the children, the sick and the poor. We at St. John's support this by giving over \$3000 a year to Diocesan fund for this purpose.

However, many Christians also want to be involved in actively helping others. If you are one of these, let the Rector know. He wants to form a Christian Action Committee to seek out those needing our help, and to then plan active help by our congregation.

## ST. JOHN'S EVENING MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the Evening Mothers' Union will be held in the Kindergarten Hall on 19th May, 1970, after a service in the Chapel commencing at 8 p.m.

Mrs. LeFevre will conduct a creche for the 9.45 a.m. service on May 3rd.

Supper hostesses are Mesdames Easter, White and Cranswick. Members are requested to bring a small gift for the overseas sale if possible, or send it to Mrs. Wherrett, 5 Cherry Rd., Trevallyn, by June 1st.

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting of St. John's Women's Guild will be held at the home of Mrs. H. D. Palliser, 3 Wyett St., on Thursday, 14th May, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Supper hostesses: Mrs. Palliser and Miss B. Stevens.

Guest speaker will be Miss Harris who will speak on nursing experiences in the islands. This will be the Annual Meeting.

## ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Lecture Room at the Hospital on Monday, 11th May, commencing at 2.45 p.m.

Mesdames Holyman, Palliser, Purcell and Waldron were guests of the Board of Management of the hospital on Wednesday, 15th April, for the Graduation Ceremony which is held annually at the Hospital.

## A DIVINE HEALING MISSION

will be held by

THE REV T. ROY PARSONS, M.B.E.  
(Rector, Guild Church St. Martin, London)

in conjunction with

THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE

THE PHYSICIAN

Thursday, 14th May

3 P.M. Informal gathering for all interested in St. John's Hall.

8 P.M. Healing Service, Paterson St. Methodist Church.

Divine Healing is:

Healing of the mind.

Healing of the body.

Healing of the spirit.

Healing through the Sacraments.

Health and wholeness.

## ABC OF FAITH

J. R. W. Scott, a well-known English priest, Rector of one of the liveliest parishes in London, sets down the ABC of becoming a Christian like this:

A is for something to ADMIT. (St. John 16: 8-9, Romans 3: 23, St. Luke 15: 18, 1 John 1: 8)

B is for something to BELIEVE. (St. John 3: 14-16, Acts 16: 31, Romans 5: 8, 1 Corinthians 15: 3, 1 Timothy 1: 15)

C is for something to CONSIDER. (St. Luke 14: 27-28)

D is for something to DO. (Revelation 3: 16, St. John 1: 12)

Baptism is the outward expression of this experience of repentance, faith and commitment.

It would have made sense to St. Augustine.

## CHURCHES IN NEW SHOPPING CENTRE

Churches of eight denominations at Doncaster-Templestowe (Victoria) have established a counselling centre in the Doncaster shopping centre.

The Rev. B. J. Bateman told a conference in Templestowe Presbyterian Church the venture would cater for residents of the area as well as people visiting the shopping centre and the permanent staff.

The centre will be concerned especially with such people as lonely housewives, marriage counselling, problems of youth and the aged.

Idea for the centre came from the churches of the area and involved the co-operation of Westfield Corporation which built and operates the shopping centre. Participating churches are Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Churches of Christ and the Salvation Army.

The centre will be run by a Council of 16 members drawn from the churches. All counsellors will be trained. The entire project is under the direction of an advisory council comprising Melbourne psychiatrists and social workers.

Westfield Corporation has made available space for the counselling centre.

## A LANGUAGE BARRIER?

A member of the House of Laity in the Church Assembly said at a recent meeting in London: "Young people leave the Church of England because they cannot cope with the language used in its services." I wonder how far this is true. He was thinking of such words as "shouldst", "wouldst", "mightest", "manifest", "meet" and "concord". Doubtless, there are many others, including such heavenly charged theological words as "justification", "incarnation" and the like. "I wonder," he went on to say, "if missionaries in Thailand teach people to worship God in ancient Siamese."

Those of us who bring our children to church are finding that we have to teach them a second language in order to address God."

I wonder what readers of this paper think? They might write and tell the Rector. Mr. Anthony Bush, the Bristol farmer and church youth leader, failed to convince the House of Laity. What do you think?

## FOR GOD'S SAKE

Professor Malcolm Jeeves has been Professor of Psychology at Adelaide University for a number of years. He has also been a Trustee of Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide, and his witness to Jesus Christ has been known far and wide. Recently he left to take up a new appointment at St. Andrew's University in Scotland.

The following is portion of a farewell address he gave in Holy Trinity Church:—

"For God's sake, and I say this in all reverence; stop whistling in the dark! Turn off the transistor for one minute at least. Blot out the pop songs, and face up to your true self. It's just no good going on singing about 'luv,

luv, luv', or about how bright and rosy everything is. For God's sake, be real! Surely you know, if you read your papers at all, that scarcely a day passes—a week certainly not—but another pop star who's been hypnotising you with his songs about the pleasures of sin, is reported to have either died, or nearly died, of an overdose of drugs. They sing their heads off about life, freedom and so on, but at heart it seems to me so many of them are in a terrible bondage to sin, to self, to despair, and their way out is to end it all.

## Bondage to Freedom

But again I want to tell you that in Christ there is that fulness of life that they sing about. There is fulness of life; there is perfect freedom. Why? Because God loves you. But the fact that God loves us, not only changes our status from guilty to forgiven, our experience from bondage to freedom, but it also changes the direction of our lives and our ultimate destiny.

You see, for despair, God offers you hope; and for death He offers you life. So the Lord Jesus Christ says explicitly: I tell you the truth; whoever hears my words and believes in Him who sent me, has eternal life. He will not be judged, but hath already passed from death to life.' Or again, 'I tell you the truth'; He says, 'Whoever obeys my message will never die.' Or gain, I am come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."

## PARISH MESSENGER DONATIONS

The following donations towards the cost of printing and distribution of the Parish Messenger have been received:

Mesdames W. J. Williams \$1.00, J. Cunningham \$2.00, A. R. Hammond \$1.00, M. Acland \$2.00, D. Wise \$1.00, Misses Scott \$1.00, J. Johnston \$1.00, W. Stewart \$1.00, M. Bourn \$1.00, Anonymous \$1.00.

Thank You.

## BAPTISMS

Leigh Andrew Stone, Troy Christian Roberts, Lisa Maree Bennett.

## MARRIAGES

Adrian Murray McKercher and Leonie Faye Wood, Brian Murray Mansell and Cheryl Maree Peck, Kenneth Harold Tubb and Lynette Dawn Miller, Gerald Dennis Plumbridge and Desma Jean Eastoe, David Nicholas Hughes and Jane Axton.

## BURIALS

Frederick Williams.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to all those who have been bereaved.