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# St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 239

AUGUST, 1971

Rector:

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

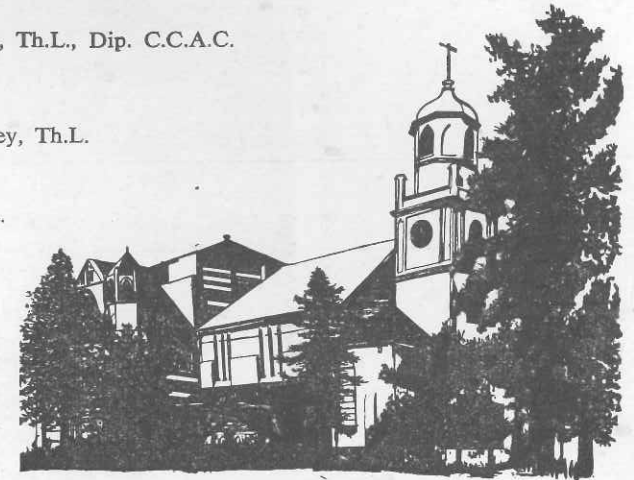
Assistant Staff:

The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.  
Phone 31 4896

Deaconess Jenny Shaw, Th.L.  
Phone 2 3186

Organist:

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



### FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of St. John's,

As you would expect I begin these few lines by thanking all those who, in so many ways, made their contribution to our Planned Giving Programme.

For those men and women who have taken an active part as either hostesses or visitors it has been a very rewarding, and often thrilling experience.

Our Director, Mr. Jim Carroll, had, at times to be very firm with us in order that we did not deviate from the guide lines laid down by the Methodist Department of Promotion. We now know that their methods were right. The reasons are obvious. The basis was Biblical and the methods well tried in both Methodist and Anglican Churches.

We asked for pledges based not on our needs, but as an expression of our love for the God who in Christ loves us so completely. We do not yet know the final financial result, but it will be in excess of \$62,000 over the next three years.

It is worth noting that almost all parishioners increased into a more meaningful pledge. This means less token giving, and should indicate a deeper level of personal commitment. Pledges under \$1 have decreased from 113 to 79, those from \$1 to \$5 have increased from 86 to 132, those \$6 and above from 3 to 12.

I agree with Mr. Carroll when in his final report he said, "Facts and figures, no matter how presented, can never tell the story of this Programme, and everything accomplished by those who shared so willingly in the work. The intangible benefits that the work will receive from the efforts of the Hostesses and the Visitors are things which cannot be expressed in words, but they are the really important facts of the Programme."

We must now apply the same devotion to the rest of the work which lies ahead of us, but more of this next month.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN



## Happenings

Hope you didn't miss the "Parish Family Dinner". Greenery and table candles made the hall most attractive. Gas heaters provided necessary warmth. The food was hot. The speeches short and to the point. A night to remember indeed.

Another engagement at St. John's. Cupid's arrow has now linked Felicity Giesemann and John James. Felicity came to Launceston from Melbourne earlier this year. John needs no introduction.

Congratulations to Helene and Lindsay Bourke on the arrival of Nikola Jane and to Grand-parents Mr. and Mrs. Tom White.

Hear the Maidsments (Ted and Beryl taught in our Sunday School last year) phoned from Melbourne to hear how St. John's fared in the Charles St. explosion. We suffered minor damage only, one small pane of glass broken in the tower.

After some weeks in hospital the death of Mrs. Linda Butler was not unexpected, yet we shall miss her at St. John's. Our sympathy to her daughter Dulcine.

Worth passing on:

Clergymen need love. They are expected to give it day in and out, night in and out to the members of their churches, whether they feel like it or not. But few parishioners love their pastor enough not to be insulted if he is just too weary or too busy to visit them in person and sends his assistant instead. (From "Make Love Your Aim"—Eugenia Price.)

Those who saw the film "He Who Must Die", will welcome "Christ Recrucified" an allegory of the Passion story in which Greek villagers play out the roles of the gospel characters. The six episodes may be seen on A.B.C. Television at 9.35 p.m. beginning August 22nd.

Mrs. Clark has now returned home after her long spell in the General Hospital and Mrs. Dodery hopes to leave St. Luke's in the near future.

A clergyman owned a horse who responded only to religious commands. When he wanted the horse to gallop, he said, "Thank God". When he wanted the horse to stop he said "Amen".

One morning, as he started his ride with "Thank God", the horse suddenly went out of control and headed straight for a cliff. The clergyman forgot the command for stop and blurted, "Whoa, slow down," which of course wasn't successful. As the horse neared the cliff's edge, the minister finally remembered and uttered "Amen". The horse stopped just in time. "Wow!" said the clergyman aloud. "That was a close one! Thank God!"

*Elizabeth Street*

### CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

- 1 **Trinity VIII**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion - Creche and Sunday School, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 4 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6 Friday - The Transfiguration. 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7 Saturday, 6.30 p.m. R.S.C.M. Choir Festival. 7.30 p.m. Youth Group.
- 8 **Trinity IX**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Broadland Primary School Service, Sunday School, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 9 Monday, 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 10 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 11 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 12 Thursday, 2 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 15 **Trinity X**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion, Sunday School. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8 p.m. Coffee Shop.
- 17 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mother's Union.
- 18 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 22 **Diocesan Sunday**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 24 Tuesday - St. Bartholomew. 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.45 p.m. Townsend G.F.S.
- 25 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 29 **Trinity XI**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Mattins - Sunday School. 7 p.m. Holy Communion.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### R.S.C.M. CHOIR FESTIVAL

6.30 P.M., SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

#### ORGAN RECITAL

by Rodney Ford

3 P.M., SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

### MOTHERS' UNION

We were privileged to have Mrs. Robinson our Diocesan President, with us for our July meeting. She gave us a stimulating informal talk which was a summing up of her own experiences and personal growth she had gained from the fellowship in the Mothers' Union.

It was good news to hear that Mrs. Clark is now home and we look forward to her return to St. John's when she is able.

There will be a Creche conducted at the Rectory on Sunday, 1st August, at 10 a.m. by Mrs. J. Piper.

The next meeting will be on 17th August commencing with a service in Chapel at 8 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Miss S. Brownrigg. Supper hostesses: Mesdames Roberts and Smith.

### ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Members of St. John's Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital will meet in the Kindergarten Hall, August 9th at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea hostesses: Mrs. M. M. Easther and Mrs. G. W. Kerrett.

### VISIT OF PRIMATE

The Most Rev. Frank Woods will preach in St. John's at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 22nd August.

Come and bring your friends to hear our Primate.

### WOMEN'S GUILD — JULY

In lieu of our evening meeting on Thursday, 8th, members of the Guild entertained senior ex-members and friends to a delightful afternoon in the Kindergarten Hall. The Revd. Hugh Girvan welcomed guests and entertained with a talk on the life of a Precentor.

This month's meeting will also be held in the afternoon. We have accepted the kind invitation of our speaker, Mrs. Richmond, to visit "Tresca", her home at Exeter. Transport will be available. August 12 — cars leave St. John's at 2 p.m.

### VISITOR OF NOTE

CANON MICHAEL GREEN

Principal, St. John's College  
Nottingham

Canon Theologian Coventry Cathedral

WILL PREACH AT ST. JOHN'S

AT 8 A.M. ON AUGUST 15

### TOO BUSY?

He was quite an ordinary little man sitting in a seat in the train with his nose buried in a book. Suddenly as the train was just leaving a station he looked up with dismay on his face and said, "Oh dear!" As though what to do next he shot forward to the edge of his seat, then realising that there was nothing he could do, he quietly closed his book and sat back.

To anyone watching the drama it was obvious what had happened—the little man had gone past his station. Why? He had been too busy with what he had been doing to think of where he was going. And of course he is not alone in this; there are millions in the world who are the same. Business executives

caught up in the rat-race; housewives engrossed with the daily round of bringing up a family; students immersed in studies and the shaping of a career—all these, and many more, are running the same risk, for they are too busy with what they are doing to think about where they are going. Doubtless they intend to think out this whole question of life, its meaning, and what follows. But the years slip by, and this finds them no better prepared than they were last.

Are you like that? Are there things that so absorb you that you are letting these weighty considerations have second place—or even no place at all? If so listen to this most searching of all questions, "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

The way of life is embodied in the acceptance of a person—Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

When you accept Him, He opens to you the very best both in this life and the next. Anything you have known up to now is but a pale shadow of what you can experience through Jesus Christ for He will fill your whole being with the very Life of God Himself.

—A. Hall

### A PARABLE FOR TODAY

A small car stopped each night outside a house; a girl got out, a man drove off. This happened very often, and always it was late at night. Soon tongues began to wag. "Did you hear her coming in again last night? I know it was late because I was putting the cat out. Mark you, it's no business of mine, but her husband is away at present, isn't he?"

Now for the facts of the story. The girl was the wife of a man who had to travel abroad on constructional work. In his absence, she had taken a job as a cashier at a small cafe in the town, which was kept open late. Frequently the owner of the cafe had driven her home when the last bus had gone. Nothing at all. But the tainted tongue had done its work. The girl heard the rumours; she knew her husband had a rather jealous disposition, and she worried herself sick, lest he hear the rumours and think them true. In a moment of great depression she committed suicide. Murder was committed by a tongue which thought it was upholding the conventions, but had no knowledge of the facts.

Canon Douglas Rhymes in relating this story in his excellent book "No New Morality" adds:—

Before passing moral judgement on any individual, we should be ABSOLUTELY certain that we know the true FACTS, that the disclosure of the facts is going to HELP rather than hinder or hurt; and that we are aware of the circumstances which lie behind the facts. So often murder is committed by a tongue, yet the murderer goes uncondemned, and is probably admitted to Communion.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

A meeting to arrange adult classes will be held in the Rectory at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, 8th August. Those interested please attend.