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St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 237

JUNE, 1971

Rector:

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

Assistant Priest:

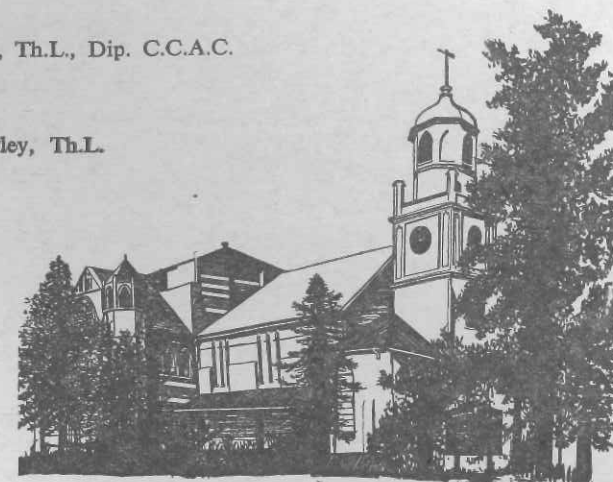
The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Phone 31 4896

Parish Sister:

Miss Jenny Shaw, Th.L.

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,

Our Faith must not be put into a box marked "For Sunday Only." It must affect all our days; every thought, every action. That is why last month I asked you to consider the way in which you speak of your Faith in and through your attitude to money.

I then asked "What is our money saying to the world?" Another way of putting the question might be "What is our money causing the world to say?" If they, those outside the Church, knew (and it is not hard to discover) that we pay more to belong to a club, or that we spend more on our sport or hobbies, then we can't blame them for believing that our faith means little to us.

More importantly, what is our money saying to God? In our Communion Service we repeat "Lord, we offer unto thee ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice". But what is that sacrifice in hard cash? Is it a sacrificial giving, or a tip to God?

If this is true of us, what is the trouble? I believe it lies in the fact that instead of seeing all we have as held in stewardship from God, we have come to look on money as our own. In a sense that is true. Our money represents US as nothing else can do. Why then separate it from our faith?

To think of money as Mammon, not to be talked about publicly in Church, is a long way from David's prayer, "all things come of thee, of thine own have we given thee." All things does not exclude our money. St. Paul in Romans ch.8, and elsewhere, teaches us that a Christian is "in Christ". As a member of His Body we share in the privileges of sonship, we also share in sacrificial responsibility. It is true that neither in quantity nor in quality can we offer a worthy offering. Only God in Christ can do that. In love He gave all He had for us, His life.

Christians believe that they live to serve this loving God, who is Father and Creator. He has placed us in a world which is His world. We did not make it, but we can use it. New knowledge has brought us new power to do amazing things with our world, but it all remains God's gift to us. Therefore life itself, our time, our personal gifts and all our possessions come from Him.

When we break the dichotomy between purse and prayer in our personal and parish life we shall surge forward and experience a great spiritual benefit, the like of which we have not known before.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN.



Happenings

Noticed that the views of the Aboriginal community at Oenpelli on mining operations on their tribal lands were put to the Prime Minister by a C.M.S. delegation led by Bishop Kerle. Yet another instance of the Church caring for our Aboriginal community.

* * *

Was glad for her, but sad for us, when Mrs. Latta left for a visit to England. Her smile and goodwill to others belong to the infectious variety.

* * *

Noticed a number of families worshipping together at 10 a.m. during the school holidays. An example worth following.

* * *

Read of the death of Lila Emily Dineen. Older members of the congregation will remember her close association with St. John's.

* * *

Don't forget to tell your friends to listen to St. John's on the A.B.C. at 11 a.m. on Sunday 13th. The Service was recorded on 30th May.

* * *

Most of my friends think Church Unity a good thing but not too many seemed willing to pray about it during the "Week of Prayer".

* * *

Why do we leave these things to others?

* * *

Asked about the Jumble Sale for the Sunday School and the Rector informed me that the profits will provide two new steel folding tables for the Kindergarten. An anonymous gift will provide another two.

* * *

Read about a parishioner (not St. John's) whose weekly contribution varied with his estimate of the value of the sermon, ranging from \$1 to \$5.

* * *

Then came the Sunday when the Rector found a note in the plate reading "U.O. Me \$5".

Elizabeth Street

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

- 1 Tuesday, Anglican Women's Fellowship Conference.
- 2 Wednesday, Anglican Women's Conference. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 5 Saturday, 7.30 p.m. Youth Fellowship.
- 6 Trinity, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion; Sunday School; Creche 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 7 Monday, 2.45 p.m. St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary; 7.30 p.m. Order of St. Luke Prayer Service.
- 8 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 9 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 10 Thursday, 7.45 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 11 St. Barnabas, 8 p.m. Ordination of Deaconesses, St. David's Cathedral.
- 13 Trinity I, 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Mattins, Sunday School, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 15 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mother's Union.
- 16 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 20 Trinity II, 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Holy Communion, Sunday School; 7 p.m. Evensong; 8 p.m. Coffee Shop.
- 21 Monday, 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 22 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. G.F.S. Townsend Group.
- 23 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 27 Trinity III, 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Family Service, G.F.S. Junior Enrolment and admission of Members and Associate. 7 p.m. Evensong, 8 p.m. 20 and Overs.
- 30 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

THE LAST WORD

Perhaps the one attribute that we all really appreciate in others is dedication. A DOCTOR—dedicated to the work of saving life and controlling disease. Or a NURSE involved with him in that very noble work. A FIREMAN risking his life to save another who is caught in a blaze because he is dedicated to save life. A POLICEMAN exposing himself to death, danger or injury against an armed criminal or rescuing someone over the gap, because he is dedicated to save life, and protect the lives of others. So we could go on to mention Soldiers' Sailors and Airmen dedicated to save the lives of their families and their nation. Everyone, Christian or Non-Christian alike can see and appreciate this characteristic — dedication. We are dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ but are we prepared to risk our lives to save a soul? Are we prepared to invest time, talent, money, self-esteem, pride in an attempt to save a life for Christ? Well, then, can we really say we are dedicated to Christ?

THIS IS IMPORTANT

After considering our present financial position the Churchwardens and Vestry have decided to advance the 1971 Planned Giving Programme to July.

You are asked to co-operate by keeping free two dates on which we will ask all the parish to be present at special functions.

They are:—

Friday, 9th July at 7 p.m.

Sunday, 11th July at 10 a.m.

You will receive further information as soon as the planning, now being made, is complete.

ST. LUKES HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary is doing all it can to provide for alterations and improvements to the hospital and many have been made recently. As St. Lukes is our own Church Hospital, we would be very grateful for any assistance you are able to give.

In April the Auxiliary donated \$150.00 for Theatre improvements and \$5 to the Chapel Fund.

On May 24th an Evening was held in St. John's Hall when Miss M. Mack showed slides of her recent trip overseas. They were enjoyed by all who attended.

Members of the Auxiliary will meet on Monday June 7th at 2.45 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Afternoon Tea hostesses; Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Maclaine.

The meeting has been advanced one week on account of the June holiday.

The Annual Meeting will be held on July 12th at 2.45 p.m.

MOTHER'S UNION

The next meeting will be held on June 15th commencing with a service in the Chapel at 8 p.m. Afterwards Mrs. Helen Thurley will speak to the group.

Supper hostesses Mesdames Waddington and Girvan.

A Creche will be conducted by Mesdames Piper and Crawford for the 10 a.m. service on June 6th.

Closing date for gifts for the overseas sale is the next meeting and members are asked to bring Australian made goods.

WOMEN'S GUILD

St. John's Women's Guild held their May meeting and their 16th Annual Meeting, which 15 members attended, at the home of Mrs. Palliser. It was a most enjoyable evening with a lovely supper to celebrate their sixteenth birthday.

The Rector chaired the Annual Meeting. Mrs. White was elected President, Mrs. Palliser Vice-President, Mrs. Harris Secretary and Mrs. Sheldrick Treasurer. This is Mrs. White's seventh year in office, and we look forward with confidence to another year under her leadership.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Record, 59 Ann Street. Supper hostesses, Mrs. Record and Mrs. Kerrison.

SISTER NOW DEACONESS

Those of you who have come to value our Parish Sister, Miss Jenny Shaw, will be interested to learn that the Bishop has decided to admit her to the Order of Deaconess.

Jenny has been tireless in her work as assistant first to Archdeacon Jerrim, and now to the Rector. She came to St. John's in February 1969 after training at Deaconess House, Melbourne.

The ordination will take place in St. David's Cathedral on Friday, 11th June, (The Feast of St. Barnabas) at 8 p.m.

On Sunday 13th. at the 8 a.m. service Deaconess Shaw will receive the Bishop's Licence, and be welcomed to the parish in her new capacity.

A GOOD STEWARD? OR ARE YOU "TIPPING" GOD?

"Many regular, efficient givers are still 'tipping' God, and it would be hypocrisy to teach sacrificial giving if the parish and diocese still adopt self-centred budgets," says Brian Rice, author of 'What is Christian Giving?'. Giving can be planned without being sacrificial, and so miss the whole point. We still have to work out and pray out 'the partnership principle'—fifty per cent. on the running our own show in the parish and fifty per cent. on the spread of Christ's kingdom. God's budget is much bigger than our parish church."

"Flapping with bazaars or sales of work"

Christian giving embraces the whole Christian life. It answers the question "How important is God?" with real dedication and commitment. It soon tells us whether we are only playing with our religion. Time and time again the parishes with real spiritual and evangelistic power are those who have faced up to the challenge of stewardship — too frequently the others are flapping about with bazaars and jumble sales instead of spreading the Gospel. Stewardship transforms all this.

It's not just a question of repairing the leaking church roof or painting the parish hall — it is the joy of giving to extend God's Kingdom. Each parish can prove that the Giving Church is the Living Church.

As St. Francis Xavier put it in the hymn we sing:

Not with the hope of gaining aught,
Not seeking a reward,
But as Thyself has loved me,
O ever loving Lord.