



PARISH MESSENGER

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

USUAL SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8.00 a.m. Every Sunday, 10.00 a.m. First and Third Sundays, 7.00 p.m. Fifth Sunday.
Morning Prayer: 10.00 a.m. Second Sunday. Family Service: 10.00 a.m. Third Sunday.

Evening Prayer: 7.00 p.m. Every Sunday except Fifth

(The evening service is held at 7.30 p.m. during daylight saving months.)

Rector :

Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B., St.J., Th.L. Dip. C.C.A.C.
Telephone 31 5218

Assistant :

The Reverend David Lewis
Telephone 31 4896

Organist : Mr. Lindsay O'Neill, B.Mus., F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends at St. John's,

It is fitting for the People of God, as we take up the work of another year, that we recall with gratitude all the graces and blessings received during the years that are past. We should again listen to the words of the Psalmist "Bless the Lord O my soul and never forget all that He has done for you. He pardons all your iniquities; He heals all ills; He redeems your life from destruction; He crowns you with mercy and compassion."

We must ever be grateful for the many blessings given to us individually in the spiritual life and for the abundant graces poured out on our parish, and on the entire Church. We must be grateful too, for the many material blessings that God's providence has bestowed on us, and make sure that we use wisely what he has entrusted to us.

As we look at our world, with fierce conflicts in South-East Asia, Africa, Northern Ireland and the Middle East we feel the lack of a sufficiently powerful authority at the international level able to maintain peace, but we feel more than ever that peace must be rooted in love in the hearts of men. Each of us, therefore, has the responsibility of seeing that there is nothing alien to love in our own heart. This means in effect an earnest endeavour to live the double mandate of charity — the love of God and the love of our neighbour. Anything in our hearts that militates against this law of love is an obstacle to our obedience to our Lord's command.

In a recent sermon on the gifts of the Spirit. I urged that this year we learn to love others as He loves us, and to show this in our homes, our church and community. By love in this context, I mean not sentimentality, but that spirit of self-sacrifice which enables us to live for others. Those who live this life, know from experience that it is the only way, for it is Christ's way, and therefore it is the perfect way.

My prayer then is that in return for the love of God, and in obedience to Christ's command, we will love, and love, and love, and love.

Yours in His service,
HUGH GIRVAN.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- 2 THE PURIFICATION: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 3 EPIPHANY IV: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 4 Monday: 7.30 p.m. O.S.L.
- 6 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 10 SEPTUAGESIMA: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 12 Tuesday: 6 p.m. Mens' Tea.
- 13 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 14 Thursday: 7.45 p.m. Guild.
- 17 SEXAGESIMA: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 19 Tuesday: 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 20 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 ST. MATTHIAS: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 27 ASH WEDNESDAY: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER

February 10th —	
D. Atkins	L. O'Neill
P. Cox	J. Roberts
B. Easther	J. Stevenson
G. Hill	T. White
G. Lillico	N. Woods

MOTHERS' UNION

Members are reminded that our first meeting for 1974 will be on 19th February at 8 p.m. After the Chapel service, we shall hold our meeting in the Rectory.

FLOWER GUILD ROSTER

Church:	Chapel:
February 3 —	
Mrs. Robinson	Mrs. Crawford
February 10 —	
Mrs. White	Mrs. Watson
February 17 —	
Mrs. M. Easther	Mrs. Higgins
February 24 —	
Mrs. Cornish	Mrs. Girvan

MENS' FELLOWSHIP

The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, 12th February at 6 p.m. Increased costs force us to increase the meal charge to \$1 (still a very cheap meal).

The speaker this month will be Lindsay O'Neill, who will demonstrate the how and why of the organ.

All men of the parish are welcome at our monthly teas, but to help with the catering always notify one of the clergy.

FAMILY FILMS

for the Parish Family

SCROOGE

The Musical of Charles Dickens
Immortal Tale

Starring: Albert Finney
Kenneth More
St. John's Kindergarten
February 22nd, 7.30 p.m.
Donation — Adults 50c
Children (under 14) free

WOMENS' GUILD

The first meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday, February 14th. It will commence with a service in the Chapel at 7.45 p.m. and afterwards meet at the Rectory. Will all members please keep in mind the date of the Guild Conference at Beresford House on Thursday, 28th February, starting firstly with a Communion service at St. Oswald's Trevallyn, at 10 a.m.



HAPPENINGS

Can't keep up with all the comings and goings, but after joining us for the C.M.S. Summer School the Rev. Alf Chipman, and his wife Nola, have now left for the Diocese of Mount Kenya, where Alf is a youth worker.

* * *

Rodney Ford returned from his studies in England, and after two weeks at home has now gone to his new work teaching music at Guilford Grammar School in Western Australia.

* * *

Back home after a year's study at the R.M.I.T. in Melbourne is Peter Roberts, who will complete his engineering course in Launceston.

* * *

Leaving us for a while is Julie Walton who is off to sight see and teach in Europe. We shall miss her contribution to the choir and the Parish Education Committee.

* * *

We lost two faithful parishioners when the Targetts left for Hobart during January. Cliff has been associated with St. John's all his life and will be greatly missed in the choir. Win is well known among the Guild members.

* * *

Though he has not been a parishioner for many years we still remember the Rev. Cecil Rose with affection. Readers will be interested to know that he celebrated his ninetieth birthday in January.

* * *

Did you hear about the well-known parishioner who agreed to be Father Christmas? The children were delighted when he ho-ho-hoed into the Kindergarten. He listened to their requests and then was ready to depart. "See you next Christmas, children," he called. "Ready Prancer and Dancer, Comet and Vixen?" and Santa was off for another year. But five minutes later poor Santa poked a meek head back into the doorway. "Please," he whispered, "would everybody look around for my car keys?"

Happy days —

Elizabeth Street

FACING UP TO GRIEF

From a letter: "Some time ago the only son of a friend of mine was killed in a car accident. He was a fine Christian lad . . . it is a life sentence of anguish for his parents . . . Would you write something to help . . . Every day we read of similar tragedies, and so many need help . . ."

The sudden death of a loved one is the most shattering experience that can befall us. Nothing can ease the immediate overwhelming pain of bereavement.

But understanding of the character of God as revealed in and by Jesus, together with some knowledge of the recent discoveries of psychiatrists on ways of facing up to grief, will help in the re-adjustment to life under the changed conditions.

We know from Jesus that "God is Love." That surely must mean that a tragedy bringing bereavement and pain cannot be God's direct will. It must be evil. It must come within one of the categories of activity over which God does not choose to exercise direct control.

Moreover death is so casual. That thought suggests to me that physical death is not so important in God's eyes as it is in ours.

We know very little about the next phase of life after physical death. But what we do know was told us by God Himself, by Jesus Christ Whom we believe to have been God's Personality in a human life.

We know that in that fuller life we recognise and still love the loved ones and friends we have known here. We know that the keynote of that new life is joy, as we are nearer to God.

That is why the lesson read at the funeral service ends on the note of victory.

It was to tell us of that victory that God came into human life as Jesus of Nazareth, and lived and died, and passed through and beyond death, and then came back again, to tell us that life is all of one piece — this life, physical death, and the fuller life of the spirit.

Tragedy is evil. But God can make use of the results of evil, when we will co-operate with Him.

Jesus said: "Blessed are they that mourn."

He could not have meant that mourning is in itself a good thing. He knew that bereavement often drives people in desperation to find the help from God they have previously never worried about.

When in this way, understanding of the helpful presence of God does come out of painful experience, then the mourner is indeed blessed.

The despairing parent or lover, however, needs to know how to meet grief and rebuild life.

To avoid talking about the person who has died is unwise; it is better to recall happy memories of a relationship that has now been closed by the natural event of death. It is only by speaking to others of the loss that the pain eventually becomes bearable.

Then some new area of interest must be found to replace the old pattern of life. There is no short cut to this. But friends can help much as under the slow healing processes of time and prayer, despair gradually gives way to serenity and renewed interest in life.

— Major Gen. C. A. Osborne

CHRIST OR NOTHING

Mr. Malcom Mugeridge, the former editor of 'Punch' and Rector of the University of Edinburgh, resigned from the latter office because of a moral question. He made his position clear in a sermon which he preached before the University in St. Giles' Cathedral. "The Mugeridge Sermon" as it has been called, states his Christian convictions with unequivocal boldness. "As far as I am concerned," Mr. Mugeridge said, "it is Christ or nothing." This remarkable testimony went on to declare — "I am more convinced than I am in my own existence that the view of life Christ came into the world to preach, and died to sanctify, remains as true and as valid as ever, and that all who care to, young and old, healthy and infirm, wise and foolish, may live thereby, finding in our troubled, confused world, as in all other circumstances and at all other times, an enlightenment and a serenity not otherwise attainable."

FOR PARENTS ONLY

Thinking that three hours at any movie are harmless to the child, but that two hours of Church and Sunday School are too much for his nervous system, is just bad thinking.

Giving him ten cents for the offering and fifty cents for the movies not only reveals a lack of values, but is unlikely to produce in adult life a proportionate giver.

Letting him listen to several hours of radio and television thrillers a day with no time for even short prayers and a few Bible verses is a criminal imbalance.

Being careful that junior has his weekday lessons, and caring not that he knows his Sunday School lesson, makes for spiritual illiteracy.

Saying that a child must make his own decisions whether or not he should go to Church, is shirking parental responsibility.

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