

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. Fourth 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.

TAKING A NEW LOOK AT OURSELVES — a message from the Rector.

Dear friends of St. John's,

Modern man, we have been assured, is not worrying about his sins. Well, whether he is worrying about them or not, he can hardly deny that they exist. And it would take an extraordinarily complacent person to declare that all the trouble and violence that exists in the world is the fault of other people that he himself was quite innocent of blame.

Jesus was a realist about this. He did not gloss over the faults of human beings, nor did He condemn humanity, because of our sins and failings, as beyond redemption. He taught that we must not try to make others "scapegoats," but that we must face our sins frankly and ask Divine help in overcoming them, which is the reason why the petition "forgive us our trespasses" comes in the Lord's Prayer.

Recently I was impressed again by the sight of a gang of men high up on the iron girders of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, painting them. It takes some years to cover the whole structure, and when this has been completed they go back and start all over again. This operation is, of course, a defence against the attacks of rust, which otherwise would eat into the bridge and put it at risk. Rust on the bridge again reminded me of the way in which sin attacks the soul and affects, not only the life of the individual, but inevitably the whole of society, "For none of us lives to himself." (Romans 14:7).

For hundreds of years there has appeared in the Church's Calendar the Season which we call Lent. As you know it is the period of forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. In it we are asked to "take stock" of ourselves and, in the way we think best, to strengthen our Christian life. Is there one of us who does not need the opportunity that such a season provides?

A Japanese, whose family was killed by the Atom Bomb of Hiroshima, has said that he felt most of all at that terrible time, not hatred of the enemy, but a sense of personal guilt. Can we understand what he meant?

We have no cause to thank God that we are not as other men are, but only to say, like the publican in the Gospel story, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Lent is a time when we attack the rust of sin which without God's grace destroys us all.

Take time this Lent to read religious books, (a good selection is available through our Lending Service), to attend a week-day communion, or by using the week-day services to make sure that you attend communion at least every week. Join one of our discussion groups, or form one with some of your friends. The possibilities are endless. If we want to, we can, but like so much of life, and in particular the life of the spirit, it is the will that determines our final course. Let us pray for strength to do the Fathers will, this was our Lord's prayer, make it ours, beginning this Lent.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh Girvan.

CALENDER FOR MARCH

- 3 LENT I: 8 a.m. Holy Communion;
10 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 4 Monday: 7.30 p.m. O. S. L. Prayer meeting.
- 6 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7 Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 10 LENT II: 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Mattins; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 11 Monday: 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 12 Tuesday: 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 13 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 14 Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Holy Communion; 7.45 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 17 LENT III: 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 19 Tuesday: Mother's Union.
- 20 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 21 Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 LENT IV: 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Family Service; 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 25 The Annunciation; 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

27. Wednesday: Holy Communion.
28. Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 31 LENT V: 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10 a.m. Mattins; 10 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m. Evensong.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER FOR MARCH 10th

B. Easter (duty)	J. Stevenson
K. Atkins	N. Dicker
B. Cleary	P. Hull
P. Cranswick	S. Murray
W. Donaldson	B. Proverbs

Any person who is unable to attend at the last moment please ring Ian Routly. Work 31 6666, Home 44 4936.

If any member of the church would be available to do Meals on Wheels on the second Sunday in the month, please phone Ian Routly. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

DO YOU KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Check yourself against this summary of the Great Ten:
1. Put God first in everything.
 2. Worship Him and obey Him sincerely.
 3. Be careful of all your speech.
 4. Keep the Lord's Day for Him and not for yourself.

5. Respect everyone older than yourself.
6. Love everyone.
7. Be perfectly pure in thought, desire and practice.
8. Be fair in all your dealings with everyone.
9. Do not lie or give false impressions about other people.
10. Be content with what you have.

NOW — DO YOU?

C.M.S. STUDY TOUR OF SOUTH EAST ASIA

C.M.S. Members are invited to enquire for details of an in-depth tour visiting missionaries on location in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Northern Territory. Approximate cost \$725. Dates 10-29th June, 1974.

Enquiries:

Asia Study Tour,
Church Missionary Society,
203 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne, 3000.

Planned and organised by members of the Victorian Branch of the Society.



HAPPENINGS

Those who attended the C. M. S. Summer School, were delighted to find that an old friend of St. John's — Irene Murison-Bourne — had come from Sydney. She then went on to Hobart for a short holiday.

* * *

Former Sunday School teacher Rosemary Campbell, who graduated with credits in her nursing course last year, has now gone to Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where she will do her maternity certificate.

* * *

Her many friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Margot Parker is home, and recovering, after a visit to St. Vincents.

* * *

Another well known parishioner, Mrs. Hazel Holyman, President of St. John's Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital, has returned from Melbourne after a successful eye operation.

* * *

Have not personally checked the story, but I hear that some of the younger men of the parish meet at 6 a.m. for a "jog" up the Gorge and a quick swim at the First Basin. With autumn just round the corner, I'll be interested to hear their winter programme.

* * *

From my "hot line" to the Rector comes the result, so far, of our help for the Queensland flood victims. \$180 from donations and a \$250 grant from the Vestry. It wouldn't take much effort to lift the total to \$500. It will be sent for distribution by the Archbishop of Brisbane.

* * *

Walking down St. John Street I saw trenches reminiscent of World War I. However it was not war in the Rectory, where peace still reigns, but a complete blockage by roots of the Rectory drainage system.

* * *

Thought the Family Film evening in the Parish Hall a good idea. Hope it was only the first of many. Family Occasions are always times to remember.

* * *

Read about the atheist who asked his small daughter to copy out "God is nowhere." Fortunately she rewrote it "God is now here," and so got the matter straightened out.

Elizabeth Street

ST. JOHN'S AUXILIARY TO ST. LUKES HOSPITAL

The Members of the Auxiliary will meet in the Parish Hall on Monday 11th 1974 at 2.45 p.m.

Afternoon tea hostesses: Mesdames Holyman and Palliser.

We would welcome new members to our meetings. Please remember the trade table at each meeting.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The first meeting of the year commenced with a service in the Chapel; fourteen members were present. Mrs. White, our president, welcomed a new member, Mrs. Butler and wished her a happy future with us.

The year's Syllabus was worked out, and we look forward to a very happy and prosperous years work.

Some lovely bootees were received from Kay Swinnerton.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Page on March 14. This will be a 'Beagle Evening', bring a friend. Supper Hostesses: Messrs. Palliser & Page.

LIFE DISCUSSION GROUPS

This year, there are three discussion groups in the evenings during the week, and one on Wednesday Morning after the Mid-week Communion Service. In the evening meetings we discuss some aspect of teaching in the Bible and see how, or if, it relates to our life today. We meet once a fortnight, on the second and fourth Mondays, the first and third Tuesdays and the second and fourth Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. in the Cottage. On Wednesdays we are looking at the Parables, and again meeting in the Cottage.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please see the Assistant.

A GENERAL MEETING

in St. John's Hall to hear
The Rt. Rev. D. W. B. Robinson
(Bishop in Parramatta)

and
The Rev. Dr. John Munro
(Chairman Australian Board
of Missions)

on
"The Communication of the
Gospel in the Seventies"
Tuesday, 5th March, 8 p.m.

THIS LENT

At Sunday morning services,

Addresses on:—

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

(except at Family Services)

Holy Communion on:—

Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m.

Thursdays at 7.15 p.m.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our first meeting for the year was well attended and Mrs. Watson showed us some glorious slides of Canada and England. These were taken during her recent trip when she visited her son in Canada.

The Diocesan Council Meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held in St. John's Hall on Tuesday, March 26th, commencing with Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

On the night before, Monday 25th March, we will be having a Smorgasbord Dinner, in the Parish Hall, for all M.U. members, and we ask members to bring friends who may be interested in joining our group.

After dinner and fellowship there will be a Festival Service in the church to celebrate Lady Day — the Feast of the Annunciation. Please inform the Rectory of friends you will be bringing as soon as possible, this is vital for catering.

Our next branch meeting will be held on 19th March. Chapel Service at 8 p.m., and afterwards in the Rectory.

THE LOST

An anonymous churchgoer I,
Arriving not early, not late;
I stand up and then I sit down,
And slip half-a-dollar in plate.
I sing in a mute sort of way;
Cough once, but don't cough again.
I lower my head for each prayer,
And remember to join in Amen.
The Readings flow smoothly along;
On Bible my eyes never bend;
And right on the dot I switch off
From beginning of Sermon, to end.
What use am I, then, in this world?
In statistics I count quite a lot.
As long as there's thousands like me,
The church flows not cold and not hot;
But rides on a nice even keel,
Avoiding extremes at all cost;
And never identifying
The thousands of souls that are lost.
— Anonymous.

SOUL FOOD

If a man is locked in a room with no food, he will die in 6-10 days.
If you give him half the food he needs, he will live for 10 years.
If you give him two-thirds of what he needs, he will live for 30-40 years.
That is the situation of most people in the developing countries today.
— Dr. Yusuf Ali Eraj,
Kenyan Gynaecologist
The situation is not notably different when it comes to spiritual food.
Without the Bread of Life, the Church would cease to exist in a week.
We can last for 10 years on half of what we need spiritually.
And with two-thirds of the Truth, we may survive another 30-40 years.
Are we feeding our bodies and starving our souls?
Worse still, are we starving the rest of the world . . . both physically and spiritually by failing to share our bread and our Bread of Life?
— The Sower.

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