

PARISH MESSENGER

Aren't All Good Men Christians?



The problem for us is the word "Christian". It has at least two meanings. Sometimes people use it to mean "good" or "gentle" or "kind", or "moral". They know that these are Christian ideals and when they find people who exercise them, people who are loving, considerate and high-principled, they call them Christians. They might remark "He's a real Christian", or "That was a Christian thing to do". This might be so even if the person is a Muslim or a Jew or an atheist. There is **NOTHING WRONG** with using the word like that, as long as we remember that there is another very important meaning, and we do not become confused.



The word was first used—and it is still used in this way—to refer to people who consciously serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Naturally such people do try to live up to Christ's standards but they realise that they cannot succeed. Therefore they call on Jesus for help. They do not have eternal life because they are good, but because Jesus helps them. As the Bible puts it so clearly, "He who has the Son has life, he who has not the Son has not life". "Having the Son" is the only standard.

Let me illustrate. In Jesus' day there was a group of men who were very moral. They had the highest standard of morals which the world had ever

seen, and they tried to live up to them. Undoubtedly they were far superior to 99% of Australians. You could justifiably say of them "They were real Christians", i.e. in the first sense of the word. But these people hated Christ so much that they had him crucified! They were good, but they were not Christians because they did not seek Jesus' help nor aim to serve him.

At the same time there was a group of drop-outs. Some were traitors or thieves or murderers or irreligious or adulterers, or they just didn't care. Jesus befriended many of them and they followed him and served him, trying to give up their old ways. They believed that he could give them the new start they needed, forgiveness and eternal life, and all they had to do was ask. They knew they needed help, so they got it from Jesus — think of Zaccheus or the dying thief. They were the people who were originally called "Christians".

So it is today. Not all good people are Christians. Fortunately, Christianity is for the hopeless. As Jesus said, "It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick; I did not come to invite virtuous people but sinners" (Mark 2:17). If a man is good then he doesn't need to be a Christian. Of course, there is no completely good man. Christ alone is without sin.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8.00 a.m. Every Sunday; 10.00 a.m. First, Third and Fifth Sundays.

Family Service: 10.00 a.m. Second Sunday. **Morning Prayer:** 10.00 a.m. Fourth Sunday.

Evening Service: 7.00 p.m. (7.30 p.m. during daylight saving months).

WEEKDAY SERVICES: (In the Chapel)

Morning Prayer, daily at 8.00 a.m.; Holy Communion, Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m.

Rector:
The Revd. Ian Booth Th. L.
Tel: 31 5218

Assistants:
The Reverend David Lewis Tel: 31 4896
The Reverend Harry Ikin L. Th.

THE RECTOR WRITES,

Dear Parishioners,

A new awareness is evident! It is an awareness that "mission" means first a renewal of spiritual life through prayer and study.

Five prayer groups are now meeting in the homes of parishioners of St. John's and a significant group of others is being encouraged to pray for the parish by one of our parishioners even though they are unable to meet as a group. The special focus of prayer for these groups is our Parish Mission to be held from September 24th to 28th. The experience of praying together for the mission will in itself be a time of spiritual growth and fellowship which will do much to strengthen the life of our parish and its witness for Christ.

To lead our Mission, the Rt. Rev'd Kenneth Short will come from Wollongong, N.S.W. We hope that his wife Gloria, who is also a gifted speaker and a singer, will be able to be with him. Bishop Short will be assisted by Mr. Ron Buckland, General Secretary for Scripture Union in Tasmania whose effective approach to evangelism is already well known to some of our parishioners.

It was my privilege on April 1st to be present in St. Andrew's Cathedral Sydney, when Ken Short was consecrated a Bishop and also to attend a reception to both he and his wife following the service. They are keenly interested in our proposed plan of outreach through the Mission and are looking forward to the few days with us.

This Parish Mission is part of two special themes we are following in this year of 1975. The first; our Church of St. John's 150th Anniversary - St. John's has been a witness to the Christian Faith in Launceston since the early days of its history and we think it significant and right that we should involve the present parish family in active witness to the city during this year. The second; the Diocese has urged us to be part of Mission '75, a programme of outreach in many and varied ways throughout this year and our Parish Mission will be one effective way in which we can do this.

Two Bible Study Groups are active. One is on Wednesday morning each week and is held at C.M.S. House, St. John Street and the other is held in the Parish Centre on the first and third Mondays at 8 p.m. Involvement in Bible Study and discussion in some regular form builds up faith and equips for mission. Spiritual growth which comes from this makes us far more effective as individual Christians and certainly more effective together as a congregation in both worship and witness.

I am hoping that very soon another opportunity of Bible Study, at a different level for those who wish to understand the structure and background of the books of the Bible at a more serious level. Such a course of studies will provide a new richness of understanding of the Bible for those who are able to tackle it. Mr. Lloyd Bath has offered to take these studies and I am grateful to him for being prepared to make the time available. As soon as I know how many wish to come to this course we will arrange a suitable time for all concerned and announce a starting date. Please let me know of your interest as soon as you possibly can.

Perhaps I should say that our involvement in prayer and Bible Study is not just to fulfil a programme for our 150th Anniversary or for Mission '75. If it were only for that purpose it would savour of gimmickry and be a dismal failure. The special events do, however, provide us with an impetus in things which are basic to our existence as part of the Christian Church. Alongside worship, mission or evangelism, teaching and pastoral care are all daily involvements for us.

The evident awareness of which I wrote above is good news to those who have been praying for a renewal of spiritual life in our parish. At the moment this awareness is but a stirring. May the wind of the Spirit of God fan this stirring into a burning zeal for him and his Kingdom.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Ian B. Booth

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The April meeting was held in the Parish Centre with 13 members present.

We were sorry not to have our President, Mrs. White, with us. She was unable to be present owing to illness as was also Mrs. Kerrison. We pray for their speedy recovery and trust that they will be able to be with us at our next meeting.

In September we will be having a Floral Festival in the church to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of St. John's Church. Also we hope to sell suitable vessels for floral displays. If any parishioners have any presentable vases for which they have no further use we would be very grateful for these. Please leave them at the Rectory or phone Mrs. White at 2 4310 or Mrs. Harris at 31 2332 and we will pick them up.

We will also be holding afternoon teas during the week of the display which will be from September 8th to 12th. However, further details will be published later.

Our next meeting will be our Annual Meeting and will be held on 8th May. We invite you all to attend in strength. Supper hostesses will be Mesdames Holyman and Easther.

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Help make all the services at St. John's

FRIENDSHIP SERVICES

come and join us

particularly at breakfast after the 8 a.m. service each Sunday and for coffee after the 10 a.m. service.

IN THE PARISH CENTRE

approached via. the Southern Ambulatory door.

MEALS ON WHEELS

More wheels are needed for our St. John's team as it fulfills its commitment to the Meals on Wheels Service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Mr. Ian Routley, Phone 44 4936, will be very glad to receive the names of volunteers. You can be assured of a very happy response from those who receive their meal through this service, and all it needs of you is a short delay to your

own meal time that Sunday.

Roster for May 11th.

I. Routley (Duty)	J. Green
W. Cowell	P. Hull
P. Cox	S. Murray
M. Easther	D. Sheldrick
A. Ford	D. Standaloft

MINI BIBLE STUDY ON MISSION

The Commission for Mission: Matthew 28.19, Mark 16.15, Acts 1:8.

The first missionary or evangelistic campaign outside of the Jerusalem area began when the followers of Jesus were scattered throughout the country as the result of persecution. Read Acts 8. Philip, Peter and John preached with great success in Samaria - - - Acts 8: 4-17. The Holy Spirit moved strongly throughout the region and Philip preached in many cities of the coast from Gaza to Caesarea - - - Acts 8: 25-end.

Note that, as the Good News (Gospel) was proclaimed, response came. People were brought to a living relationship with God and the fellowship of other Christians (the Church) through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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PARKING ON SUNDAYS

Those wishing to have off-street parking during Sunday Services at St. John's and unable to find a space in the parking area behind the Church are reminded that they are at liberty to use the vacant areas in the old tennis court area approached off Frederick Street.

This is for Sundays only. At other times the spaces are all fully rented to our parking clients.

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ST. JOHN'S AUXILIARY TO ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

Members of the Auxiliary will meet in the Parish Centre on Monday May 12th at 2.45 p.m.

Afternoon Tea hostesses will be Mrs. G. Wherrett, Mrs. R. Cornish.

On Thursday May 8th the combined Auxiliaries of St. Luke's will be holding a "Morning Tea" at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Room, Alanvale Road commencing at 10.30 a.m. A charge of 50c will be made for morning tea. There will be a mixed stall - - - cakes, plants etc.

We cordially invite St. John's parishioners to attend. Please bring your friends.

Proceeds of this effort are for the air-conditioning of the Hospital theatre.

All will be interested to know that the proceeds from the function at Mrs. A.M. Strickland's home amounted to \$141.00.

CALENDAR FOR MAY

- 1 Thursday: S.S. Philip and James' Day 8 a.m.
Holy Communion
- 2 Friday: 8 p.m. Education Committee
- 4. EASTER V: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m.
Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday School.
The Revd. Ken Rogers of Melbourne will be
preacher at both 8 & 10 a.m.
7 p.m. Evensong -- C.W.A. attending, Deaconess
Rosemary Perrott will preach.
- 5 Monday 7.30 p.m. O.S.L. Prayer Meeting in
Chapel.
8 p.m. Bible Study Discussion Group in Parish
Centre.
- 6 Tuesday: 8 p.m. Annual Meeting Broadland
House School.
- 7 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 8 ASCENSION DAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
7.45 p.m. Annual Meeting of Women's Guild in
Parish Centre.
- 11 SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION: 8 a.m. Holy
Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service
7 p.m. Evensong
- 12 Monday: 2.45 p.m. St. John's Auxiliary to St.
Luke's Hospital in Parish Centre.
7.30 p.m. Discussion Group Mission '75.
- 13. Tuesday: 6 p.m. Men's Tea in Parish Centre.
- 14 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 18 WHITSUNDAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
10 a.m. Holy Communion -- Commissioning
of St. John's C.E.B.S. Branch. 10 a.m.
Sunday School. 3 p.m. Consecration of St.
Mark's Church. 7 p.m. Evensong - Preacher
the Rev'd John Van. Emmerick, C.M.S. Kenya
- 19 Monday in Whitsun Week: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
8 p.m. O.S.L. Chapter Meeting at Margaret St.
Church of Christ. 8 p.m. Bible Study Discussion
Group in Parish Centre.
- 20 Tuesday in Whitsun Week: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
A.W.F. Conference commences in Hobart. 8 p.m.
Mother's Union in Parish Centre.
- 21 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 25 TRINITY SUNDAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion
10 a.m. Mattins. 10 a.m. Sunday School.
7 p.m. Evensong
- 26 Monday: 7.30 p.m. Discussion Group Mission '75
- 27 Tuesday: 7.45 p.m. G.F.S. Townsend Group in
Parish Centre.
- 28. Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
- 29. Thursday: 8 p.m. Annual Public Meeting of
Launceston City Mission.



HAPPENINGS

Fine, forthright preaching! I was at the 10 o'clock service on Easter Day to hear Paul Sudhakar of Kerala, India. He is one of the overseas visitors invited by our Bishop as part of the Mission '75 programme. He said, "Paul, the Apostle met the Risen Christ on the Damascus Road; I, Paul Sudhakar, met the Risen Christ on the India Road!" Have you met him on the Tasmanian Road?

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I snapped up a treasure or two at the marvellous Mini-Market recently. As I made off with my "discoveries" I noticed a visiting parson from Melbourne making off with three records tucked under him arm. Congratulations to the C.E.B.S. and G.F.S. for their successful effort even to entering the export trade!

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Tasmania is not the isolated place it used to be in my mother's day! Within a few days last month two world leaders of well known Christian groups visited Launceston and were afforded Civic Receptions by the Mayor and Mayoress. Mrs. Susan Varah, Central President of the Mothers' Union from London way, I thought, a most gracious and charming person. She hails from the City of London where her husband the Rev'd Chad Varah is Rector of the Lord Mayor's Parish Church, St. Stephen's Walbrook. Incidentally, the Rev'd Chad Varah is well known as the founder of "The Samaritans". The second visitor was General Wiseman, world leader of the Salvation Army. General Wiseman is a warm-hearted Canadian who heads up all the evangelistic and social welfare work of the Army around the world;

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There's a few new books in the Parish Lending Library. Have you read any of them? I believe the Sunday School now has a library of their own. Now we can all be Christian Bookworms!

Elizabeth Street

MOTHER'S UNION

Next meeting will be held in the Parish Centre on May 20th commencing with a service in the Chapel at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Paterson will demonstrate floral art. Regrettably she was not able to be present at the April meeting.

Supper hostesses: Mesdames W. Cowell, J. Piper, A. Roberts.