



Newsletter

June 2015

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

May it please you to prosper Zion
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 51:16-19 ^{NIV}

West Wall
Walls of Jerusalem National Park TAS
Photo: C Godman

Our vision: **“Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn

Who am I?



Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again;

Over and over again, we are bombarded by society, with a message telling us that our life is primarily a journey of self-discovery. We see and hear the message in all sorts of ways: discover your true self, to truly know happiness you must first know thyself, march to the beat of your own drummer, and dance like **nobody's watching. And while** on one level, these are all great messages to hear - they encourage creativity and exploration, freedom and individuality - in my experience working with kids and teens, as a teacher and a mentor and a friend, the thing that confuses them the most is trying to figure out who they are and where they fit into the world.

As we wrestle with questions of identity, we are also plagued by questions such as: **What if others don't like who I am?** What if there is something wrong with me? **Or worse yet, what if I don't like who I am?**

And so inevitably, we create false personas, we hide behind masks of popularity, or success, or even sometimes

behind a mask of failure - keep a low profile and just plug through life behind the scenes. Ultimately this means that we spend an enormous amount of energy trying to prove who we are, rather than living out of our identity.

It is this idea of living out of our identity that the Apostle Paul has in view, in Romans 8:12-17. He argues that our obligation is not to live according to the flesh, but rather out of our identity as the children of God. This identity is marked firstly by freedom, for as we are no longer slaves to sin neither are we made slaves of God. Secondly it is marked by intimacy, for as his children, we know the all omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, creator and sustainer of the **entire universe, as 'Abba'**.

As he writes to the Romans, Paul uses the illustration of adoption (v 15) to help them understand just what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, and by his Holy Spirit; **variously translated as 'given the spirit of adoption', 'given the spirit of sonship', or 'adoption to sonship', the**

central idea is that by the gift of the Holy Spirit at work in us, each of us are placed, not just in the position, but in the condition of being a child of God.

This was a particularly powerful image for Paul to use for the Roman church, because the practice of adoption in Roman times was an incredibly serious and important business, and was quite common – some historians suggest as much as 10 percent of the population was adopted.

In the Roman world, adoption was strategic. It was used to strengthen alliances, to ensure that title was passed on through generations, and to make sure that the title was passed on to a child of choice – not because of any blood tie. Adoption in Roman culture **was an “all in” deal.** You completely lost *all old rights* in your family of birth - and gained all rights in the new one. This meant that became heir to the estate of your new family - not some second best heir, but equal rights with any natural born children. The adopted child was considered morally and legally to be entirely the child of the new

family. We see how seriously these legal and moral implications worked out historically, in the life of the well-known Emperor Nero, who only became emperor when Emperor Claudius adopted him specifically for that purpose. Claudius had 2 surviving children of his own - a daughter named Octavia and a son called Britannicus, yet adopted the older Nero, selecting for himself his successor. Further, Nero actually ended up desiring to marry Octavia, yet despite there being no blood relation, in the eyes of the law, they were absolutely brother and sister and therefore could not be married, until Nero had the Roman Senate pass special legislation that allowed the marriage to take place.

Finally, really significantly, in Roman adoption there was a process called *vindicatio*, from which we get our word **“vindication”**. **And what that process meant** was that quite literally, no matter who you were before the adoption, what you had done, and no matter what debts you had hanging over you - none of it had any effect anymore, for you had a new identity. The

rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship
And by him we cry,
“Abba, Father.”

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God’s children.**

Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans
8:12-17^{NIV}

*continued
from
previous
page*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from **God's wrath** through him! For if, while we were God's enemies,

slate was wiped clean. You inherited a new history. A new family. Parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts. Quite literally, you were vindicated. The old was gone and the new took its place.

So when we apply this concept of adoption to our spiritual nature, an amazing picture suddenly snaps into focus. When we commit our lives to Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit we are made completely and wholly a new person. We are part of a completely new family, what **we were before doesn't matter**, what we did before **doesn't matter. It's gone, the slate is clear**, we are vindicated, we are children of God!

That Paul places the emphasis on living out of the identity that we have been *given* as children of God, rather than exhorting the Roman church to prove themselves worthy in the hope that God might choose them, would have been a mind blowing truth for the Roman church. For because of its strategic nature, Roman adoption very rarely happened at a young age. Instead families would wait until the child was shown to be

healthy, had been educated, and their character had been deemed appropriate – indeed that they had come of age. Yet Paul asserts that God adopts us, places us in the condition of Son, not because of any good that we have done, or proof that we belong that might have shown – but by his love and grace because Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8). While we were not worth his time, God did what had to be done, that he might adopt us. And he chose us when there was no reason to do so, beyond his great love for us. As William Barclay once wrote: *“God, the great Father, in his amazing love and mercy, has taken the lost, helpless, poverty-stricken, debt laden sinner, and adopted him into his own family, so that the debts are cancelled and the glory inherited”*.

So often as Christians we tend to think that it is our obedience that earns us our identity in Jesus Christ. If I just do the right thing, if I follow the rules, if I turn up to church and bible study, if I tithe, if I remember to love, if I make **sure that I'm generous, if I serve, then I'll deserve to be a child of God**. And we also live as if the reverse is true: if I

don't do all of these things then I won't deserve to be a child of God. When we live like this though, we become legalistic, judgmental of ourselves and others, we live and act out of fear, and we make ourselves slaves – the exact opposite of what Paul says in Romans 8!

To live like that is all back to front, because here is the truth that changes us: we **don't have to DO anything to** earn our identity as a child of God. It is a freely given gift of Grace, by the Spirit, through the work of Jesus Christ! While the earthly ramifications of our sinful nature will still affect us and those that we love, we are freed of their eternal consequences. We are vindicated before God, and no longer inherit the sin and death of our fallen nature, or that we so rightly deserve. As children of God we are co-heirs with Christ and inherit eternal glory with him, in him and through him. It is by Grace that we have been saved and nothing that we can ever do can add to it, or take away from it, or *earn* it, because if we could earn it, then it would no longer be Grace.

And when we have that understanding, then we see

that all of the good things that **we do, we don't do because we're trying to curry favour** with God, or earn his approval, or somehow prove that we belong. Rather, they are a natural extension of who we are. We love, because we are the children of God. We forgive because we are the children of God. We come together to celebrate, to worship, to pray to fellowship, **because it's a family gathering** and we are the children of God. We do good and live obedient lives to our heavenly dad, and we honour our Father, our King, our God, because we are his children. That is where our obligation lies – life in and through and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

My prayer for our community is that we would know who we are. That we would know that our identity is wholly found in the freely given gift of our loving Father. And that we would live in the freedom and joy and life of that identity. For there is no greater thing, no greater gift, no greater knowledge you can have than to truly know who you are. And who you are, is a child of God.

we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans
5:8-11 ^{NIV}

Josh

Mother's Day Eve Breakfast

Lennie's Legends

Relay For Life

Team again

hosted a

Mather's Day

Eve breakfast

at St Mary

Magdalene's

Church in

George Town,

attended by

around 40 locals



CHILDREN'S PLAY



Monday's
9.30-11am

@ St
Oswald's
Church Hall
Trevallyn

\$2 per family
per week

Further
information
contact
Naomi -
0417681022

A playgroup for parents & caregivers of children birth - 5 years.
Fun activities, play time, conversation, craft, toys,
song and story times

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Thanks to Monette Long (See 1Kings 3) 01-03-2006
SOLOMON'S KIDS QUICKLY LEARNED TO NOT
FIGHT OVER TOYS

What's a
crocodile's
favourite game?
Snap!

What do
crocodiles call
children?
Appetisers!

Riverlinks

June 2015	
1 st Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> Play Group at St O's Cadorna – 2:00pm
2 nd Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
3 rd Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
4 th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's The Sound of Music – 7:00pm at Tramsheds
5 th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re-Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town The Sound of Music – 7:00pm at Tramsheds
6 th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton The Sound of Music – 11:00am and 7:00pm at Tramsheds
7 th Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 th Mon	*** Queen's Birthday Holiday ***
9 th Tue	

June 2015	
10 th Wed	
11 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 th Fri	SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre, Riverside
13 th Sat	SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre, Riverside
14 th Sun	
15 th Mon	
16 th Tue	
17 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 th Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am Chaplaincy Luncheon – 12:00pm at George Town
19 th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
20 th Sat	Lennie's Legends Trivia Night – 6:30pm at George Town Memorial Hall
21 st Sun	

The deadline for the July Newsletter edition is 22nd June

Calendar

June 2015	
22 nd Mon	
23 rd Tue	
24 th Wed	
25 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
26 th Fri	
27 th Sat	
28 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Catholic Church
29 th Mon	
30 th Tue	

July and other dates 2015	
5 th July	Sea Sunday
10 th - 12 th July	Community Festival for Peace
18 th July	Bishop's Workshop @ St Aidan's Christian Voices in Public Places
19 th July	Bishop John @ St Aidan's

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
14 th	10:00 am	Communion	
21 st	10:00 am	Inclusive Service	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Morning Prayer Communion
14 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
21 st	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Uniting Church	Communion ABU Comb Service
28 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
14 th	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship Contact Josh 0438 681404
21 st	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Contact Josh 0438 681404
28 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
21 st	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
28 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

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05-11-2015

SO YOU'VE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS OF
JESUS CHRIST, BUT HAVE YOU HEARD IT
FROM ME YET?

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

LAUNCESTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
PRESENTS

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSELL CRUISE
Suggested by "the Story of the Trapp Family Singers"

"The Sound of Music" is presented by permission of ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of IMH Theatricals: www.ohs.com

TICKETS ON SALE

Evening Performances
June 4th, 5th, 6th @ 7pm

Matinee
June 6th @ 11am

To purchase tickets
visit the LCS Website home page
www.lcs.tas.edu.au

Saturday
20th June



6:30 for 7pm
@ George Town Memorial Hall
\$10 per person

Book your table now (Maximum 8 per table)
contact Louise 0474 508 164
or
Trish 0400 675 362



Fundraising for
Lennie's Legends
Relay for Life Team

Chaplaincy Lunch

Thursday June 18th
12 noon

St Mary Magdalene's
Church George Town

\$10 per head

Help with catering and on the
day would be appreciated

Contact Trish 0400 675362

Are you a knitter with time & spare
wool on your hands?

**The Bell Bay Seafarer's Mission are always
in need of knitted beanies for visiting
seafarers. All colours, patterns & designs in
adult sizes will be gratefully received.**

Beanies can be left with Anne at the Parish office
Please help!



Bishop John's Retirement

Pastoral Letter from
Bishop John

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Following much prayer and consultation with family, senior colleagues and close friends, I believe God is leading me to draw my ministry as the 11th Bishop of Tasmania to a close mid-September.

Obviously, this has not been an easy decision, nor has it come lightly. But life brings the unexpected and so it is that we believe God has led us to a new season to be with our sons and families in Melbourne.

More work needs to be done before finalising any formal announcement, but I anticipate laying up the **Bishop of Tasmania's pastoral staff** at our Cathedral Church on Saturday 12th September.

Over the coming months I will continue to fulfil my ministry, including my forthcoming seminars, **'Christian Voices in Public Places'** in Devonport, Bellerive, Burnie and Launceston.

In the week prior to the **laying up of the Bishop's** pastoral staff, Gayelene and I will attend farewell functions in the North West and Launceston. The Southern Farewell will be at the Cathedral Service with the laying up the pastoral staff, followed by tea and buns (and possibly curried egg sandwiches J)!

On 25th **July, St James' day**, I will have served 15 years as your Bishop – an amazing privilege. Gayelene and I (and our farmyard!) have been warmly embraced. Thank you.

Our love affair with the people of these enchanting islands of Tasmania is undiminished.

May the Lord of History guide, guard and bless all of us over these coming months, and the Holy Spirit move with power in building a healthy church transforming life.

Yours sincerely in Christ's service

Shalom

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania

7 May 2015 -
from Bishop
John's blog
www.imaginarydiocese.org

Eternal God,
shepherd and
guide, in your
mercy give
your Church in
this diocese a
shepherd after
your own heart
who will walk
in your ways,
and with loving
care watch
over your
people.

Give us a
leader of
vision and a
teacher of your
truth.

So may your
Church be built
up and your
name glorified;

through
Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Budget Bonanza for Corrupt Countries

Spirit of justice and truth, grant to our governments and all who serve in public life, wisdom and skill, imagination and energy; protect them from corruption and the temptation of self-serving. Help us to commit ourselves to the common good that our land may be a secure home for all its peoples, through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Misha Coleman, who is the Executive Officer for the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce submitted the following press release earlier this week. As a patron, I fully support this statement.

Budget bonanza continues for corrupt states to lock up those who seek asylum

Speaking from Treasury after being released from the lock-up, Executive Officer **Misha Coleman said that “the boats still haven’t stopped, but money keeps pouring down the sink for offshore detention. With images today of 8000 people sweltering in misery in boats in the Malacca Straits, how long can we continue the politics of deterrence, with a price tag of \$811 million/year”.**

She said that “ using the latest figures from the Dept of Immigration, which say there are 1707 people locked up in Nauru and Manus Island, this equates to a cost of \$475 000 per asylum seeker per year. “The estimated costs also appear

to have blown out last year – this time last year offshore processing was supposed to cost \$827 million, but the price tag has come in at \$913 million, according to the budget papers.

Ms Coleman pointed out that **“two weeks ago, WA Premier Colin Barnett said he had to shut down aboriginal communities because some were costing up to \$85000/person/year, a figure he hasn’t been able to really explain yet. So my question to Colin Barnet and Tony Abbot tonight is whether they are happy that WA taxpayers, like the rest of us, are spending \$475000/person/year locking women and kids, mums and dads up in Nauru and Manus Island? Shouldn’t they be closed down too?”**

In an ironic twist, the Budget Papers also states that it will cost the taxpayer \$4.3million to gain efficiencies in the DIBP portfolio next financial year.



Ms Coleman said that **“Norfolk Island will get \$5.4 million to reform itself – although Norfolk Island has repeatedly said it would be an ideal location for humane and cost-effective processing of asylum seekers. Hopefully they can use some of this \$5.4 million to bid for the next round of lucrative detention facilities contracts.”**

“This government really has a playschool-level understanding of refugee flows – by cutting aid to countries like Vietnam, we only increase the poverty and misery that force people to flee from these. Vietnamese boat people are still coming, despite the illegal response by the Australia Government to send these boats back – as they did a couple of weeks ago to 26 asylum seekers from Vietnam. We still have no idea what happened to those people when they

arrived back – we have to **assume the worst”**

She said that “Cambodia is one of the few countries that has escaped an aid budget cut, while neighbouring Vietnam, Laos and Burma were all hit with 40% budget cuts. I must say that the Cambodia Government are great negotiators though. By agreeing to take up to 10 refugees from Australia and Nauru each year for four years, the aid budget provided nearly \$40/million. That’s \$1 million/refugee, and that was only the original agreement, we’re now paying even more on top of the original deal”.

She closed by saying that **“with all this cash floating around the immigration portfolio, it is highly disappointing that this Minister has again this year refused to fund the Refugee Council of Australia”.**

The Press Release can be found at www.bit.ly/1Q7SLOf

From Bishop John’s blog www.imaginarydiocese.org

The Debt

A man went to his lawyer and told him, “My neighbour owes me \$500 and he **won’t pay up.** What should I do?”

“Do you have any proof he owes you the money?” asked the lawyer.

“Nope,” replied the man.

“OK, then write him a letter asking him for the \$5,000 he owed you,” said the lawyer.

“But it’s only \$500,” replied the man.

“**Precisely,**” said the lawyer.

“**That’s what he will reply and then you’ll have your proof!**”





Garage Sale for CY&F Ministry

Many thanks to everyone who donated, sorted, set up, bought and sold items for the fundraising garage sale.

There was so much donated that a second sale was held on the following Saturday!

Over \$2000 was raised in support of Children, Youth & Families Ministry within the Parish.



If you're cold, this winter just stand in the corner of a room for a while. They're normally around 90 degrees



My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face



Irish Same-sex Marriage Vote



On Friday 22 May the Irish people voted in an historic referendum to change the constitution to allow same-sex marriage.

Sixty-two per cent of the population voted yes, making Ireland the nineteenth country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage, but the first to do so after a popular vote.

Gary Millar, Principal of Queensland Theological College and former pastor in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland said **he didn't think anyone in Ireland was surprised by this decision.**

"Back in the 1960s and 70s Catholicism in Ireland was quite oppressive in a number of ways," says Millar. Many people were disaffected with the Catholic Church.

"When the child abuse scandals broke in the 1990s, the wall of disaffection was ready to come down and many people who had stopped listening to the voice of Catholicism years earlier thinking it was anti-modern spoke out because all of a

sudden speaking out became **respectable."**

"[For them] It's about basic fairness and equality, and the only contrary voices are heard as being a throw back to the Catholic hierarchy," says Millar.

Lyle Shelton, managing director of the Australian Christian Lobby expressed **disappointment at Ireland's decision: "Australia should not pass a law which forces millions of Australians to pretend that a same-sex couple with children is the same thing as a mother and father with children".**

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has already dismissed the idea of a referendum on same-sex marriage in Australia, saying that questions of marriage remain the responsibility of the Commonwealth Parliament. However the change in Ireland has renewed pressure for the PM to allow a conscience vote on the issue.

Tess Holgate - Eternity Magazine
Monday 25 May 2015

For the full article & to see more go to:
www.biblesociety.org.au/news

Why is it that your nose runs, but your feet smell?

A drunk walks into a bar with jumper cables around his neck.

The bartender says, "You can stay but don't try to start anything."

Never trust an atom. They make up everything

East Launceston
21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

George Town
3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

Hillwood
Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peacehaven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

Riverside
399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside

Trevallyn
34 Bain Tce
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necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
Church.

Newsletter deadline for
photos, articles, etc. is 20th
of each month unless
otherwise stated



Mother's Day Eve Breakfast @ St MM's George Town



Garage Sale Fundraiser @ St David's Riverside



Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au