

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Second Sunday after Pentecost, 14th June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I thought you might like this photo of another one of Linda's roses this week.

You may be wondering whether we are reopening the churches now that the NSW Government said we can have up to 50 people in a worship centre.

But we also still have to maintain physical distancing, i.e. we are required to ensure 4 sq m per person and at least 1.5 metres between.



The area of the nave in Holy Trinity would allow 23 worshippers, plus two ministers. All Saints can accommodate 10 + 2. So ..., we could fit in!

However, singing is not permitted - so we can only listen to recordings of hymns, or invite a solo singer with appropriate extra spacing around the singer. Communion can be offered, but only in one kind (the bread only) and special arrangements for distribution would be required. We would not be able to have a cuppa after the service. And finally, the church would have to be thoroughly cleaned before and after each service.

Before reopening, we are required to have a detailed plan specifying how we will maintain wellbeing of worshippers, physical distancing and health and hygiene. A plan was approved by Parish Council on Wednesday so we are ready to move quickly once we decide that we want to reopen. When this decision is made, we then have to send an Application to reopen, along with the Plan, to the Bishop seeking

approval. I do not anticipate that we will be recommencing public worship services before July.

Meanwhile, I trust that you will continue to enjoy the Home Sunday Worship Supplements put together by the team: Samantha who compiles, illustrates and distributes, the LLM team who are developing their skills through writing the reflections, Lesle who writes the intercessions - and myself.

Our reflection this week comes to us from Lesle. I trust that you will find it encouraging and thought provoking. Thank you Lesle!

The parish Council is very grateful for your efforts to maintain your giving during the period of the Op Shop closure. We haven't done too badly, financially. Last month our balance sheet actually came out in the black (just). **Thank you!** 😊 But please keep it up.

We are however, reopening the Op Shop! I have drawn up the required plan and Parish Council agreed to it on Wednesday. The Op Shop will reopen on Monday 15th June.

The Plan is based upon a template provided by *Safe Work Australia* and details how we will endeavour to keep our volunteers and customers safe.

Much work has been done by various volunteers whilst the Op Shop was closed to renovate and rejuvenate the inside. It is looking just fantastic! Our grateful thanks go to



all those who contributed in some way. Why not drop in sometime and see what they have done. You will be impressed.

Rev Hyde

Psalm 116.1–2, 116.11–18

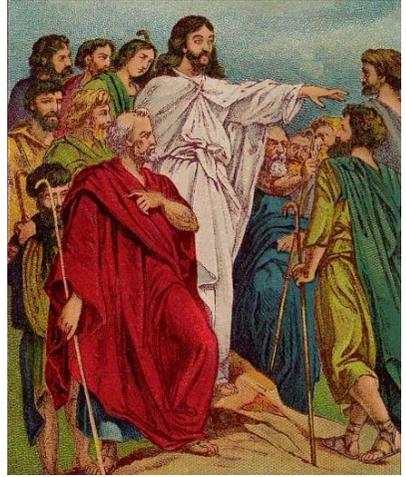
- ¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
- ² Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.
- ¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?
- ¹² I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- ¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
- ¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- ¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.



Reflection on Matthew 9:35 – 10:8 (Lesle)

What a motley crew!

A diverse and poorly organised group.

Mismatched, heterogeneous, ragtag

A haphazard assortment of different kinds

Individuals of various backgrounds, appearance and character

An unusual mixed group

A group of people with little in common who come together ie the disciples, to overcome a more professional and equipped opposing side ie the Pharisees and teaches of the Law

An odd and often mismatched group of people or friends or team-mates who don't seem like they'd work well together but somehow they do disparate, assorted, eclectic, mixed, diversified

Traditionally, a motley crew who come in the course of a story comes into conflict with an organised, uniform group of characters and prevails.

They are characterised by containing characters of conflicting personalities, varying backgrounds and, usually to the benefit of the group, a wide array of methods for overcoming adversity.

Hodgepodge of people

Jesus called a motley crew – fishermen, a tax collector, a political activist. He called common people – rich and poor, educated and uneducated who displayed no outstanding gifts as debaters or orators.

Yet expect the unexpected. When this motley crew is moulded and shaped by Jesus' example and teaching and guidance.

9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

These men had been called for a specific kingdom purpose.

Jesus outlines the Do's and the Don'ts

This band of men from varied backgrounds is called to labour.

9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;

9:38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Their labour was unspectacular and unnoteworthy – they were to ask God that is to pray to seek God's resourcing for the work ahead.

The key to doing God's bidding is not work or superior knowledge or bountiful finances – The key is prayer.

Pray to the Lord of the harvest. It is he who owns that harvest and who will orchestrate its reaping.

From the common-sense human viewpoint, prayer may not seem practical or functional. It may even appear obstructive to meeting the goal. Yet by being too hasty we can waste God's time reaping his harvest when we blunder forward overstepping the command to first pray.

The disciples were called to labour. What was Jesus' paramount instruction initiating their labour – to ask the Lord of the harvest, that is, TO PRAY.



Collect

All-powerful God,
in Jesus Christ you turned death into life,
and defeat into victory:
increase our faith and trust in him,
that we may triumph over evil,
in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which
we stand. Romans 5.1–2*



The next Home Supplement
will be Sunday 21st June 2020 – Third Sunday after Pentecost.
Keep an eye on your email on Thursday.