

The Home Sunday Worship Supplement

Third Sunday after Pentecost, 21st June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It appears that we may be back to (the new) normal sooner than we anticipated. I am hopeful that services can resume in July and a plan to enable that has been produced. We will let you know developments.

Today, we should have been having the Bishop visit for a Service of Confirmation of five children. But sadly, we had to cancel it because of the coronavirus. I will now seek another opportunity in the Spring.

However, some progress with the Parish Restructure has occurred. I have, with input from the Nambucca Heads Locums and photos from Linda, produced a Parish Profile for the proposed Anglican Parish of the Nambucca Valley. Parish Council has approved this document and



passed a motion that it be sent to Bishop-in-Council requesting that the boundaries of Macksville and Nambucca Heads Anglican Parishes be altered to accord with Model 1 of the Diocesan restructure.

We anticipate approval and direction to proceed with electing a combined Parish Council and to begin seeking a new Rector to take up the position of Ministry Area Leader to lead the Nambucca Valley Anglicans into this new era.

If you would like a copy of the Nambucca Valley Parish Profile (a 9 page document) please ask and I will email one to you).

We can also report that the re-opening of the Op Shop with the Eftpos system installed has been most successful.

Rev Clyde

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17

- ¹ Incline your ear to me, O God, and answer me:
for I am poor and in misery.
- ² Preserve my life, for I am faithful:
My God, save your servant who trusts in you.
- ³ Be merciful to me, O Lord:
for I call to you all the day long.
- ⁴ O make glad the soul of your servant:
for I put my hope in you, O Lord.
- ⁵ For you, Lord, are good and forgiving:
of great and continuing kindness
to all who call upon you.
- ⁶ Hear my prayer, O Lord:
and give heed to the voice of my
supplication.
- ⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you:
for you will surely answer.
- ⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord:
nor are there any deeds like yours.
- ⁹ All the nations you have made
shall come and worship before you:
O Lord, they shall glorify your name.
- ¹⁰ For you are great and do marvellous things:
and you alone are God.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be merciful,
give your strength to your servant:
and save the child of your handmaid.
- ¹⁷ Show me some token of your goodness:
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,
because you, Lord, are my helper and my comforter.



Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ ‘The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household ! ²⁶ ‘So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ³² ‘Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn ““a man against his father , a daughter against her mother , a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – ³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” ³⁷ ‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take



**Whoever does not
take up the cross
and follow me
is not worthy
of me.**

Matthew 10.38

up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Reflection on Matthew 10: 24-39

(by David)

How would you describe Jesus? Isaiah describes him as ‘the Prince of Peace’ (Isaiah 9:6); but sometimes he is the bringer of conflict.

As stated in last week’s reflection, Jesus took a ragtag bunch of men and turned them into disciples, taught them to pray the Lord’s Prayer (and that prayer was very important) and then sent them out to proclaim the message of the Gospel. The task that Jesus commissioned them to do has now come down to you and me. Our work won’t be finished till Christ returns - and only after he returns will the whole world realise his true identity.

But Jesus also said that those that he was sending out may face opposition and hostility from those who have not accepted him. Nevertheless, he says, “do not be afraid of them.”

We are so much more valuable than the two sparrows that God knows intimately and cares for in every detail. God loves us so much that he sent his only son to die for us. Because God places such value in us, we never need fear personal threat or difficult times and trials; these can’t shake or dislodge God’s love or discharge his spirit from within us.

This doesn’t mean God will take away all our problems/ troubles. (Matthew 10:16) Jesus said he did not come to bring

peace to the earth; but a sword. His point is that his message will inevitably bring conflict, even among families, when some accept the gospel and others don't. In such circumstance, we must not be swayed from the mission that Jesus has passed down to us.

Jesus, and his mission must take priority in the Christians' life. Whoever loves father or mother more than him is not worthy of Him and whoever loves son or daughter more than Jesus is also not worthy of Him, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow Him is not worthy of Him (vv.37-38)

Naturally some will follow Christ and some won't, so conflict will arise, as we take up our cross and follow Christ. We may well find ourselves standing apart from family members - as well as friends and non-Christians. Due to our values, morals, goals and standards we will stand out like sore thumbs. God is and must be more important than family and friends if we are to follow in Christ's footsteps.

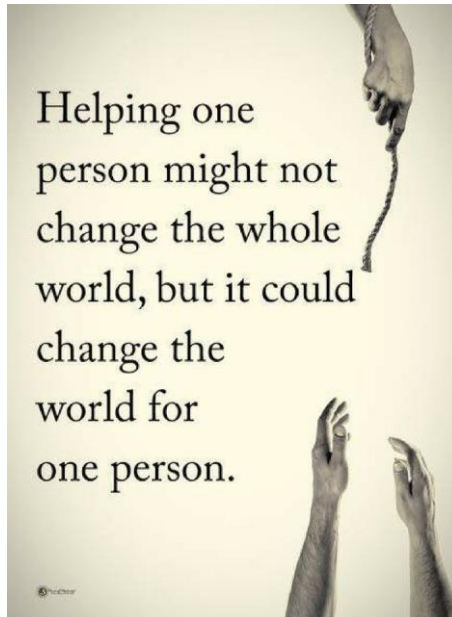
Christ calls us to a higher mission than to find comfort and tranquillity in this life. Love of family is a law of God, but even this can be self-serving and used as an excuse not to serve God or do His work.

To take up our cross and follow Jesus means to be willing to publicly identify with Him, to experience a lot of criticism and in some countries face persecution or death identifying as a Christian.

The best way to enjoy life is to loosen our grip on earthly treasures such as power, leisure, popularity and financial rewards, so we can be free to follow Jesus and inherit eternal life and begin to enjoy the benefits of His promises.

How much we Love God can be measured by how well we treat others. Jesus' example of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty child is a good model of unselfish service. A child usually can't or won't return a favour. God notices every good deed as well as bad deeds as if he were on the receiving end of both.

Is there something you can do for someone less fortunate than yourself today? You may think no one apart from the person you are helping notices, but God notices all deeds - good and bad.



Collect

Gracious God,
we who were baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death:
we pray that, as you raised him from death,
so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live the new life to
your glory,
knowing ourselves to be dead in sin
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Those who find their life will lose it, and those who
lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it. Matthew
10.39**

The next Home Supplement

And possibly the last, will be Sunday 28th June 2020 – Fourth
Sunday after Pentecost.

Keep an eye on your email on Thursday.