

Parish Life

JULY 2018

Pentecost

At our celebration of the Day of Pentecost, we welcomed guest preacher, The Reverend Dr Ivan Head, former Warden of St Paul's College, Sydney University. The following is an extract from his sermon:

The privacy or secrecy of primary encounter with the Holy Spirit of God can be maintained. This runs contrary to modern concern with spectacle. The inner 'Godwardness' of the believer may also be private. Great Saints have said 'It is my secret and humility has forbidden 'spiritual phenomena as self-aggrandizement'. Jesus said: "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door. When you do good works do not let your left hand know what your right is doing. When you fast, be 'cryptic'".

St Paul knew as much about the Holy Spirit as any first century person. Therefore we study him lest we think we know better on auto. Paul finds the Spirit in the indelible bond of God's relational commitment to us. 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus'. What then is that unbreakable bond that begins in God's commitment to each of us and ends in

our salvation? Romans 8 and 1 Cor 15 are key writings and pay endless dividends.

We pray with care 'Come Holy Ghost', for that Spirit of Christ may well come – as has been the case with women and men in history, the study of whose lives also pays dividends and encourages us to do likewise, even a little. Here are some examples:

- Jesus says to his followers 'You give them something to eat', and even then, they start out very small.
- Teresa of Avila said to her Lord 'If this is how you treat your friends, is it any wonder you have so few?'
- St Philip Neri by the calling of the Holy Spirit, drew as if by magic a community based on friendship and the charisma of free people drawn by the love of God and the

recognition that persons could live together in amity and good humour and holiness. His was the framework in which the great C19 Anglican J H Newman found his nest or home.

- Kolbe substituting himself for a fellow prisoner and dying instead of him – an act he embraced.
- John Wesley recovered a personal sense of the Holy Spirit – as in:

...the testimony of the Spirit is **an inward impression on the souls** of believers, whereby the Spirit of God **directly testifies** to their spirit, that they are children of God. And it is not questioned, whether there is a testimony of the Spirit; but whether there is any **direct** testimony; whether there is any other than that which arises from a **consciousness of the fruits of the Spirit**. We believe there is; because this is the plain natural meaning of the text [Rom 8:16]

Wesley discusses the challenge raised when people retort 'But madmen, French Prophets and enthusiasts of every kind have imagined they experienced this witness'.

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Dr Ivan Head preaching (above) and with Dr Max Wood cutting the Pentecost cake

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Easter

The Rector's 2018 Easter Sermon



Back in April, we began our Easter Service by offering a very powerful and deliberate image, namely the new lighted Easter or Paschal candle. As the lit Easter candle was presented, the words were said: *May the Light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.* The candle is the symbol and final definitive image of our whole Holy Week journey, and the words express the essence of our faith – light triumphing over darkness.

Very early in the life of the Church, and indeed in the words which Jesus used to describe himself and his work, we have this idea of conceiving of Jesus as bringing God's light and love to the world and, importantly, shining in and overcoming the darkness of the world. The death of Jesus on the Cross, which we commemorated again on Good Friday, is a dark event. Jesus is betrayed, falsely condemned then, tragically, crucified. He is executed. A very dark thing.

However, as we heard in our Easter Gospel reading during our Easter Service (John 20:1-18), this darkness, this dark end, was not the final end. The darkness did not ultimately triumph. Instead, the light, in the form of the Resurrected Jesus rising triumphantly from the grave, overcame the darkness.

All the dark things done to Jesus, he absorbed and overcame. Not with force, or greater violence, but with the love of God.

Our Gospel reading during the service, the account of the Resurrection of Jesus, is the vindication for the whole Incarnation project. It is the vindication for what Paul talked about in his Letter to the Philippians:

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:5b-11).

This reality – light defeating darkness – has been the intention of God from the beginning.

In the creation story in Genesis, when God saw that: *the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep ... then God said "Let there be light"; and there was light* (Genesis 1:2-3). Light overcame the darkness.

Similarly, at the beginning of John's Gospel in his prologue (John 1:1-4), John talks about the Word of God that was in the beginning, how all things came into being through him. What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Most significantly, and as a foreshadowing of the cosmic-altering event recounted later in his Gospel, John writes these most famous words: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it* (John 1:5). Light overcame the darkness.

What we reminded ourselves of and celebrated in the Easter victory of the Resurrected Christ is that the darkness, the worst of things, whether it be evil in society, evil in the Church, does not have the final word. Even death itself is not the end. During our Easter celebrations each year we focus on and renew our sense of this central truth of our belief, that the light will not only shine in the darkness but it will overcome, defeat and triumph over the darkness. That with the power and love of God manifest in Jesus, the crucified and resurrected saviour of the world, the darkness, ultimately, can never overcome *this* light.



St Luke's Mosman Music Association



The ICC Council Committee

Mosman, Neutral Bay Inter-Church Council

St Luke's Church was an inaugural member of the Inter-Church Council formed 35 years ago in February 1983.

The original church membership was Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart (Catholic), Mosman Baptist, Mosman Uniting and St John's Uniting, Scots Kirk (Presbyterian), St Augustine's, St Luke's, St Clement's and St Peter's (Anglican). Since then we have had St Therese and St Joseph's (Catholic) join us.

Our abiding ecumenical philosophy is based on the idea 'that churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences compel them to act separately.'

We have met continuously since 1983 and have undertaken different things together over the years.

Our future program includes the following:

- **Visiting Sunday:** 12pm at Sacred Heart, 19 August. BBQ.
- **World Community Day:** Friday 26 October 2018
- **Blessing of the Crib:** 6pm at Mosman Seniors Centre, Thursday 6 December 2018.
- **2019 ICC Annual Dinner:** 6pm Tuesday 12th February
- **World Day of Prayer:** Friday 1 March 2019
- **2019 ICC Festival of Wild Ideas:** 3pm April 28 and 5 May at the Mosman Community Hall
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service:** Early June 2019

Please join us in our ecumenical activities.

Phillip Seale
Chairman, Mosman Neutral Bay Inter-Church Council

The Music Association needs your help!

With your generous donations we have been able to give significant assistance to St Luke's but now we need your support to undertake some new exciting projects.

Over the past 9 years the Music Association has contributed over \$100,000 to St Luke's Church. \$70,000 alone was donated towards the organ rebuild.

In the past two years donations have included reimbursing the parish for the choral scholar, paying for the choir hymnbooks, paying ongoing maintenance of the organ, for piano tuning, and for the hire of the church for concerts.

In addition, we have brought many talented musicians to St Luke's with concerts subsidized by the Association.

Currently we are embarking on an ambitious St Luke's Music Association

Youth Concert which aims to showcase the musical talent of youth in the wider Mosman area. This will be held at the Mosman Community Centre on Sunday October 7th.

We received a grant from Mosman Council of \$2000 for this project. However, we need further financial help for a website, promotions and for cash prizes, and also helpers to make this event work.

Thanks again for your help in the past.

Would you consider making a tax-deductible donation using the forms in the back of the church or making a direct deposit into our bank account BSB: 633 108 Account: 1370 00485, and/or by offering your time on the committee?

Phillip Seale
Treasurer and Public Officer
St Luke's Mosman Music Association

St Luke's Mosman Education Association

The Education Association was set up in 2009 and is a public fund established and maintained solely for the purpose of providing religious instruction in government schools within the parish.

Funds donated to the Education Association are used for:

- payment to SRE teachers for lessons to government school students in the Parish
- payment of course materials (e.g. books, tapes, DVDs) used by our SRE teachers
- reimbursement of travel costs incurred by SRE teachers within the Parish.

The existence of the Education Association has ensured St Luke's has continued children's ministry through SRE in our local schools. We have to date, during the life of the Association, expended an amount of at least \$50,000, for this work which otherwise would have had to come from other parish funds.

Please consider supporting the Education Association. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. You can make payments by cheque to St Luke's Mosman Education Association Inc. via the Parish Office c/- PO Box 162 Spit Junction NSW 2088.



Farewell to Director of Music

Thank you . . .

Gareth Baard, who took up his position as St Luke's Director of Music on 21 June 2015, has recently accepted a position at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Gareth's last Sunday in his role at St Luke's was 17th June. At the conclusion of the service, Gareth and his wife, Lorna, were farewelled from the parish with a presentation and heartfelt expressions of thanks for the dedication, musicianship and choral direction he shared with the choir and congregation during his 3 years at St Luke's.



Special Birthday Celebrations...



...a delicious birthday cake.

At the end of May both **Bev Bashford** (31/5) and **Brian Miles** (30/5) celebrated their 92nd birthdays. The parish celebrated with them at morning tea on Sunday 3 June...



Dr Max Wood, Bev Bashford, Brian Miles and Phillip Seale celebrating the occasion.

DIARY NOTES

AUGUST

18 Brian Jones Memorial Concert
Peter Adcock - organist & pianist
3pm - Church & Lower Hall

SEPTEMBER

15 An Elegant Afternoon Tea
3pm - Lower Hall & Courtyard

OCTOBER

21 Patronal Festival & Luncheon
12 noon - Seddon Hall

DECEMBER

16 Nine Lessons & Carols
7pm - Lower Hall & Courtyard



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It is a useful to hear lines from the great poet and conservative Anglican WH Auden, from 'In Praise of Limestone', where he ends on an outward and sensory vision:

*But when I try to imagine a faultless love
Or the life to come, what I hear is the murmur
Of underground streams, what I see is a limestone landscape.*

St Luke's is a place of rich and diverse liturgy, where life and faith connect.

We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation or religion.

We support the full and equal role of women in society and in the ministry of the church.

The Parish is in association with the Mosman/Neutral Bay Inter-church Council and the NSW Ecumenical Council.

Editor: The Revd Dr Max Wood
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To stay in touch at St Luke's, check the weekly pew bulletin regularly, read the quarterly *Parish Life*, check our digital noticeboard in Bridgepoint and our website www.stlukesmosman.org and follow us on



St Luke's Anglican Church Mosman has a very proud history of supporting charities locally in the Sydney District, within New South Wales, and abroad.

As most of us know from recent data released from The Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Productivity Commission, Industry & Commerce, and; Departments of Health – federally or state and territory-based: our population is aging and aging rapidly. With aging comes aged health care be it physically or mentally and especially around dementia and Alzheimer's. It is thought within the next 20 – 25 years, 40% of our population above 65 will suffer the effects of dementia and Alzheimer's.

So, in this first Mission Heartbeat News article for 2018, I thought I'd write about a charity close to our hearts in delivering practical outcomes of faith and witness in the Sydney District – **Anglicare Aged & Dementia Respite Care Services**. Evolving from *The Church Society* in 1856 to *The Home Mission Society* in the 1920's through to Anglicare Retirement Villages in the early 1990's to today's Anglicare. Anglicare has a proud history of belief in Jesus and a belief in Community and today proudly deliver those beliefs through pastoral and professionally trained and educated support for aged & dementia care in a wide variety of ways such as in-the-home, retirement villages, centre-based respite services, aged services, rapid response team support, and; mental health services for sufferers, carers and family.

Anglicare Aged & Dementia Respite Care Services is for the ill and also the carer who is lovingly supporting a family member living with dementia and related aged care requirements. In-home respite care could be just



for a few hours for the carer or a day out for the ill, or; centre-based could be for overnight and in some cases weekends. Furthermore, there are also services provided for when a carer is away from their loved one for an extended period of time. Finally, also available at Anglicare facilities are Carer Support Groups led by qualified experienced Co-ordinators. These Groups are where carers can meet, discuss, exchange stories and support other carers.

Great medical and scientific breakthroughs are occurring in the fields of dementia and Alzheimer's so we must pray that our medical and scientific researchers and institutions keep making rapid progress. Anglicare Aged & Dementia Respite Care Services have teamed with *The McCusker Alzheimer's Research Foundation* to bring together knowledge and technology to investigate treatments including identifying causal factors of these diseases, identifying early on-set symptoms of the diseases, slowing down the progress of the illnesses with an aim to find a cure.

As many of you might know, just before my 55th birthday last year, I lost my beloved Ma'ma after her long journey of some four years with dementia. With love, prayers, professional support, education, counselling and care, my Ma'ma, her

children, her family, our clan and her friends were there for each other at home, in respite and finally in nursing home – till the very end.

If it is time for you to ask for help, if you're the primary carer for someone over 65 years of age in need of support & help, or; if you care for someone suffering dementia you can discuss access with Anglicare Aged & Dementia Respite Care Services about Aged Care Assessment Team [ACAT] and My Aged Care for support and help with assessments and funding. Below are the points of contact for Anglicare.

None of us – the ill, the carer, the family or the friends need live through these illnesses alone or without support & love.

You are not alone in the journey

Damien Bastock



Contact details for Anglicare are:
www.anglicare.org.au/home-care
Tel: 1300 111 27