

SAINTS ALIVE!

St Michael's Sunday Newsletter

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Wayne's Words



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A Time to Listen Matthew 17:1-13

Jesus' transfiguration follows soon after Peter's declaration, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' Jesus immediately then spoke to his disciples of his coming rejection by the religious leaders in Jerusalem where he would suffer, die and rise again.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him up a mountain where he was transfigured in their sight, illuminated as white light, and where he spoke with Moses and Elijah. A voice from a cloud over them said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.'

What are we to make of this experience?

Moses' appearance here is telling. He met with God on Mt Sinai and his face shone with the glory of God as he came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments.

Moses predicted that God would send the Israelites another prophet 'like him' from among their brothers and that they must 'listen to him.' (Deut18:15) Jesus is clearly identified in this event as that prophet - indeed, more than a prophet, a Son!

Likewise, Elijah was predicted to come before the day of the Messiah (Mal 3:1,4:5) and Jesus alluded to John the Baptist as the fulfilment of this prophecy. (Mt 17:10-13)

So, here is a powerful visual symbol to the key disciples that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah and fulfilment of all their hopes. It was also a preparation for Jesus for what he was to face. (Lk 9:31)

The punchline in this experience to the three disciples, and in turn to us, is God's command that therefore they **must listen to him**.

When God says listen, it calls to mind the aboriginal concept of 'Dadirri' - deep listening in stillness and respect; undistracted attentiveness. He means recognising the authority of the one speaking and taking his words to heart, ready to act on what Jesus says, for there is no greater or wiser authority.

The Bible is our primary source of listening, with prayerful attention to the Holy Spirit as we read. This is both a private exercise and a communal one – in worship, small groups, seeking the counsel of others and consulting saints of the past through their writings. In all this the words and life of Jesus remain our plumbline, our true north. What ways best help you to listen? What has Jesus been saying to you recently?

God bless,
Wayne

Prayer Points

- *For stable, wise and thoughtful government in Australia at all levels.*
- *For Derek and Rosemary Snibson as they prepare to return to Melbourne after seven years in the NT.*
- *For our gardeners, who are shepherding our garden through wind and heat.*
- *This week's parishioners: Andrew, Roma, Geoff, Margaret.*



Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service will be a thoughtful time to enter into our Lenten journey. It's a Communion service with the imposition of ashes if desired, and all are welcome.

Lenten Reflection

Every year Anglican Overseas Aid publishes a booklet that draws us into a personal and transformative response to Lent as well as into their work around the world. Their focus this year is how to respond to God's call to care with him for his creation and his people, especially those who are most affected by poverty and climate. They are in the foyer.

Lenten Study

The first Sunday in Lent is Sunday 22 February and we have three options to attend the study during the week! The booklet is titled 'Joy' – once again Anglican bishops of Australia have provided daily reflections for Lent with weekly group discussion questions. It's edited by our own Bp Paul Barker. Copies of the booklet are \$10 each and there's a sign up in the foyer. All welcome!

Sundays: After the 10am service

Thursdays: In the foyer from 1 - 2.45pm

Fridays: At Friday Fellowship, 2pm at Margaret's home.

Please Note: Our Tuesday night study at Mark's home continues in fellowship and God's word.

Pancake Day Fundraiser

We're invited! There'll be pancakes for lunch at St Martin's Uniting Church on Sunday 22 February after our service. Pancakes, toppings and hot drinks will be provided, plus chocolate milk for children. St Martin's is closing at the end of the year, so let's warmly support them.

Cost: \$6 for adults, \$4 for children.

Time: From 11am; we can wander down after our Sunday service.

Funds Raised: In support of Uniting Vic.Tas in support of some of the most marginalised people in our communities, including for emergency relief and homelessness services.

World Day of Prayer Service

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. In the past six years the service has been translated into over 90 languages with more than 16 million people participating worldwide. This year the service is on **Friday 6 March at All Souls in Sandringham at 1.30pm**. Christian women in Nigeria have composed the service for us.



Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we meet and acknowledge their continuing connection to their land, waterways and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Make a Donation to St Michael's

Here are our banking details:

BSB 633-000

Acct. 139-566-459

Please add your name to the deposit description.

Thank you for supporting our ministries!

Seeding Fund

Here are our banking details:

BSB 703 122

Acct. 05010812

February 15

Exodus 24.12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1.16-21

Matthew 17.1-9

February 22

Exodus 2.15-17, 3.1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5.12-21

Matthew 4.1-11