



28th January 2024

**Fourth Sunday After
Epiphany**



Sentence

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. (*Matthew 9:35*)

The Collect

O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; Grant this for the sake of your only, Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, beginning at verse 15.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire any more, or we will die.' The Lord said to me: 'What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.'

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111

R: I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever. **R...**

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. **R...**

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. **R...**

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures for ever. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 8, beginning at verse 1.

Now about food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'We all possess knowledge.' But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'An idol is nothing at all in the world' and that 'There is no God but one.' For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many 'gods' and many 'lords'), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling-block to the weak.

For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

*Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Jesus said, 'your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed.'

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 1, beginning at the fourth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

God of mercy, you sent your Son Jesus to heal the afflicted, to comfort the lost and lonely, and to drive out the demons that corrupt this world. Hear the prayers we bring before you, in humility and trust.

We pray for the land in which we live and work and have our being; for the beauty and functionality of diversity in this land, and for a spirit of place, belonging and unity to prevail when we struggle to see past our differences. Bring our gifts together for the common purpose of realising your glory. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who do not know you. For those who actively reject the name of Jesus out of fear, confusion or ignorance. May they not be consumed by the worldly passions that tempt and afflict them, but may they be transformed by your truth into their perfect humanity. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; for places in this world where Christianity is illegal, and where faith is challenged by the demons of sin, injustice

and immorality. Send your Holy Spirit upon those who suffer in silence, and strengthen their voices to bring peace and hope where it is needed. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a safer future for our children and grandchildren. For a world that is ardently dissatisfied with apathy, corruption, war, hedonism, and the twisting of young minds. Break the power of evil in this world, and raise up agents of wisdom and holiness to fight the present insanity. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for families in our community, and in our Diocese. For love, wholeness and dignity to prevail in situations of division and hardship. For children and parents who may be seeking answers to questions bigger than themselves; that they may be drawn into a community of faith and support. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need of healing, in body, mind or spirit, remember especially those who have asked for our prayers: *Gail Piechowiak, Mary Dodge, Lyn Overend, Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful departed, that they might find rest in the eternal Kingdom. Comfort the bereaved, and strengthen we who remain with the knowledge and example of all your saints. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Walter Kirby, Pam Rhue, Harold Napper, Olive Hutchinson, John Kirkpatrick, Diane Robins, Douglas Schofield, Marie Lyons, and Jennifer Hedley. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Lenten Study

This year, we will have a Lenten study group focusing on the book: 'Where the Hell is God?' by Fr. Richard Leonard SJ. All reading material will be provided to you. This study will begin on Tuesday 13th February, and continue weekly all the way up

to Easter. Two sessions will be offered on Tuesdays: 10am at St Matthew's Broadford, and 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore. If you would like to attend please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Clarence will be visiting the parish on Sunday 18th February, where he will celebrate Mass at Broadford and Pyalong, at 9am and 11am respectively. All are warmly invited to attend either of these services.

Aged Care

Aged care services are now on a new schedule. Fr. David will conduct services at Caladenia and Dianella on the first Wednesday of each month. Services at Willowmeade will be shared between Fr. David and Doug Whitbourn to allow Fr. David to continue a regular presence at Love in Action Broadford.

Painting Workshop

On Tuesday 6th February, Fr. David will be a painting workshop at 4.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore, for members of the Kilmore Art Society, and anyone from the parish who'd like to attend. If you are able, please bring along an A4 sized canvas and a couple of small paintbrushes. Paints and some materials will be provided.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

Next Sunday: Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Malachi 3:1-4; Ps 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 29th January	Ps 69:1-16	Ps 69:17-38
	Jeremiah 12:1-17	Genesis 18:22-19:11
	Philippians 1:1-11	Luke 2:1-7
Tuesday 30th January	Ps 72	Ps 73
<i>Charles, King and Martyr</i>	Jeremiah 13:1-17	Genesis 19:12-38
	Philippians 1:12-20	Luke 2:8-21
Wednesday 31st January	Ps 148; 149	Ps 144; 150
	Jeremiah 13:19-14:6	Genesis 20
	Philippians 1:21-30	Luke 2:41-52
Thursday 1st February	Ps 74	Ps 75; 76
	Jeremiah 14:7-16	Genesis 21:1-34
	Philippians 2:1-11	Luke 3:1-14
Friday 2nd February	Ps 77	Ps 78:1-15
	Jeremiah 14:17-15:9	Genesis 22:1-24
	Philippians 2:12-18	Luke 3:15-22
Saturday 3rd February	Ps 78:16-38	Ps 78:39-70
	Jeremiah 15:10-21	Genesis 23
	Philippians 2:19-30	Luke 3:23-38

Parish Contacts

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Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

Glenn McKenzie, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958

Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/> or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services Online on the website.

Thoughts for the Week

If they don't know, they won't go. More than once has it come up in conversation, that I've offered baptism, confirmation, bible study, pastoral care or the like to children via their parents. The response is almost invariably: 'we'll let them decide when they're old enough.' The phrase that runs through my head afterwards is: if they don't know, they won't go. God the Father exists regardless of human beings, as does Jesus, as does the Holy Spirit. Christian discipleship, however, is a not only a gift of the Lord, but a human practice of self-healing, relationship building, and moral and social edification. And because it is a human practice, given for our sake, we need to, well...practice it. For the sake of their children, it behoves the parents to model Christian discipleship and education. See, the thing with every other contemporary or new age spirituality, is that they are EVERYWHERE. And they are seemingly easy, because practice equates to materialism. The sheer amount of STUFF you have to buy to consider yourself 'spiritual but not religious' these days. The irony is, of course, people try to set themselves free by dangling more and more stuff from every limb of their body and every rafter of their house. The presence of material effects is meant to answer for spiritual practice; though admittedly it does seem like a sort of 'fire and forget' approach. The other aspect, of course, is that some people absolutely love routines, such that they busy themselves with everything from gym sessions to paint-by-numbers. Little realising, of course, that the practice of Christianity is so routine-driven. Look at the prayer book, it's all there for you to pray two to three times a day, plus going to Mass. If you ask me, the 'spiritual but not religious' mob are running out of valid excuses for not exercising their Christian dignity. It boils down to laziness, ignorance, and a refusal to educate oneself in the true practices of the Church, not just skimming the headlines in secular media. At the core of Christian discipleship is routine, as well as education, vocational and moral discernment, social justice, and the

formation of permanent spiritual resources beyond oneself for the purposes of self-healing and growth. These are vital elements for the developing young mind, as well as any other for that matter. But: if they don't know they won't go, and if they don't go, they won't know. It's up to you to bring them along.