

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
COGs Group meet @ 1pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 7am
Rainbow Lunch Club meet @ 11.30am
Thursday Bible Study @ 10am
Rev Josie @ church until 12 noon
Sunday 25/8 Car Rally with map @ 1pm

RAFFLE WINNERS COLES VOUCHER – 1st Prize \$150 to Glenys Boag
2nd Prize \$40 to Cheryl Louth
3rd Prize \$20 to Helen Wooding

Total raised for Quiz Night \$659 and Raffle \$550 = \$1,209. Well done!!

CAR RALLY – our next Social Activity will be a Car Rally with map on Sunday 25th August starting at 1pm. This is always such a fun event; Phil puts a lot of effort into planning the course we take and providing the clues we follow. So, if you haven't been on one before make this the year you give it a go. You can always join with someone else if you're not up to driving. Please put your name on the Notice Board if you're coming along.

Please pray for: Paul; Keena; Maggie; Cheryl; Elsie; Isla; Charlotte; Cameron; Kieth; Bhav; Joyce; Gazza; Derek

This week Johnny is with Margaret Greenhill



Happy birthday to anyone who is celebrating this week

Wardens - Phil Goulding Phone: 9247 4978

Judith Smith Phone: 9246 3745

Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler Phone: 0421 115 438

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Welcome to Worship



Pentecost 9

21st July 2024

We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

Sentence: As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.
Mark 6:34

Collect of the Day

Eternal God,
author of our life and end of our pilgrimage:
guide us by your word and Spirit
amid all perils and temptations,
that we may not wander from your way,
but may run our course in safety
until we come to our eternal rest in you;
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Today's readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:21-38
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Next Week:

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



Pentecost 9 – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

Jesus’ heart was moved with pity for the vast crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd.

The apostles return from their first mission of preaching and healing and report to Jesus. He gathers them in a “deserted” place, but the people find them and keep coming. Even their attempt to escape by boat to the other side of the lake is foiled once word gets out.

This incident recorded by Mark in today’s Gospel (which precedes his account of the feeding of the multitude) offers two important insights into our Church’s ministry: that the mission of the Church does not spring from mass marketing techniques or publicity strategies but from the Gospel of compassion we seek to live and share, from the authority of our commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation; and that leadership, inspired by the wisdom of God, means not dictating and ruling over others

but inspiring, providing for and selflessly caring for those whom we are called to lead.

In our heeding those “shepherds” in our society and culture who promise us only the best, who affirm and rationalise our fears, who give us “enemies” to direct our fear and their promise to vanquish them for us, who reduce the complexities of life to simple rules and absolutes, we are the “shepherdless” for whom Jesus’ heart breaks.

In Christ, God has raised up for us a shepherd to guide us in God’s ways of compassion and reconciliation; a shepherd to lead us safely along life’s rough crags and dangerous drop-offs to God’s pasture of peace and fulfilment; a shepherd who helps us clear the obstacles and hurdles of fear and self-interest to live lives centred in what is right and just.

From the clamour of the marketplace and the demands of our calendars and “to do” lists, we need “deserted,” out-of-the-way places to be alone with God, to listen to the quiet of our hearts to hear the voice of God.

The Gospel “deserted place” can be a physical place of quiet and solitude to re-connect with God and the things of God — but the “deserted place” can also be time: a few minutes we set aside to stop, to realise God’s presence in our midst, to feel grateful for God’s grace in the love of family and friends. We all need “deserted” places to escape the demands and expectations of our over-scheduled lives to hear anew the voice of God in the quiet of our hearts, to realise anew God’s presence in our lives in the love and care of family and friends.

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