DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday	Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday	Friendship Group meet @ 10am
	Games Group meet @ 7pm
Wednesday	Golf Group meet @ 6am
Thursday	Music Group meet @ 7pm
Saturday 19th	Thank You Sundowner @ 4.30pm

OUR THANK YOU SUNDOWNER – for all who support our beautiful church will be on Saturday 19th October at 4.30pm. Please put your name on the board if you are coming along, so we know how many to cater for.

CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES – it's coming up to that time of the year when all the shoeboxes which have been lovingly put together need to be brought in. Please can you bring them in by the end of October.

HOLIDAY – Reverend Josie will be on holiday until 28th October. The Reverend Erich von Dietze will be taking the services for the three Sundays while Josie is away.

Please pray for: Paul; Keena; Cheryl; Elsie; Isla; Charlotte Marilyn; Cameron; Kieth; Bhav; Joyce; Gazza; Derek; Ann-Marie; Bev



This week Johnny is with Ken & Evelyn Hamilton



Happy birthday to Bobbie Donaldson & Donovan Clarke on 8th; Drew Byrne on 9th; Leanne Ptolomey on 10th; Margaret Greenhill 11th

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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ST JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH GREENWOOD

Welcome to Worship

Pentecost 20

6th October 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: Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. *Mark 10:15*

Collect of the Day
Loving God,
you have made us in your own image,
creating us male and female,
and you have consecrated the covenant of marriage so that in it is signified the spiritual marriage between Christ and his Church:
pour your grace upon all who are called to this holy state, that, keeping their promise of faithfulness to each other, they may reflect in their lives your love for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today's readings:
Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Next Week:
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31



Pentecost 20 – Mark 10:2-16

"Because of the hardness of your hearts [Moses] wrote this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh."

"Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

The question of divorce was among the most divisive issues in Jewish society. The Book of Deuteronomy (24: 1) stipulated that a husband could divorce his wife for "some indecency." Interpretations of exactly what constituted "indecency" varied greatly, ranging from adultery to accidentally burning the evening meal. Further, the wife was regarded under the Law as the husband's chattel, with neither legal right to protection nor recourse to seeking a divorce on her own. In Biblical times, there was little appreciation of love and commitment in marriage – marriages were always arranged in the husband's favour, the husband could divorce his wife for just about any reason, the woman was treated little better than property. Divorce, then, was tragically common among the Jews of Jesus' time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus cites the Genesis account of the creation of man and woman (today's first reading) to emphasise that husband and wife are equal partners in the covenant of marriage ("the two become one body"). The language of Genesis indicates that the Creator intends for the marriage union to possess the same special covenantal nature as God's covenant with Israel. Jesus again appeals to the **spirit** of the Law rather than arguing legalities: It is the nature of their marriage covenant that husband and wife owe to one another total and complete love and mutual respect in sharing responsibility for making their marriage succeed.

Today's Gospel reading also includes Mark's story of Jesus' welcoming the little children. Again, Jesus holds up the model of a child's simplicity and humility as the model for the servant-disciple.

Jesus appeals to his followers to embrace the Spirit of love that is the basis of God's "law" – we are called to act out a sense of the compassion and justice of God rather than fulfilling legalisms and detached rituals.

Marriage is more than a legal contract between two "parties" but a **sacrament** – a living sign of God's presence and grace in our midst, the manifestation of the love of God, a love that knows neither condition nor limit in its ability to give and forgive.

In every stage of a couple's life, a marriage centred in the love of God always moves beyond "hardness of heart" to embracing God's spirit of generosity and selflessness. In such a marriage, Christ is the ever-present Wedding Guest who makes a couple's simple, everyday life together a miraculous sacrament in which the love of God is revealed to all.

A child's marvellous sense of wonder, inquisitiveness and simplicity that deflates adult "logic" and the "conventional wisdom" and makes us look at the essence of our actions and our beliefs models for us how to respond in faith to Jesus' call to discipleship.

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