

BOOK GROUP

Please note that we will resume meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 2 to 4pm in the School Room, commencing after Easter (first session on 12th April). We're taking the longer than usual break due to Lent & Easter being earlier this year, and not wanting to clash with Lenten studies & Easter celebrations. New members are welcome, but if anyone just wants a copy of the book* the cost is \$17.50. Enquiries to Rev Jenny Dunn.

* Note: The subject book is Paul F Knitter's 'Without Buddha I Could Not be a Christian' – Knitter is the Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture at the Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (a leading advocate of religious pluralism)

SERVICES DURING JANUARY

Services include: Sundays at 8.00am & 9.30am
and Wednesdays at 10.00am

Please note there is NO Sunday 5.15pm service; & Meditation, Healing and Morning Prayer services during the week.

CHOIR PRACTICE

The Choir is in recess – the first practice for 2016
is on Thursday, 4th February at 7.30pm!

Coming Events/Festivals

Saturday, 6th February – 'Saturday Club'
7.30pm in the School Room
Planning for the year's activities
followed by Supper!

Sunday, 7th February - Start-up Sunday,
including our first CAFS for 2016,
followed by a Parish Feast
for all parishioners and families!!



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey	M: 0433 933738
	Email: trickeyrussell13@gmail.com	
Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist:	Mr Winton Barry	
Office:	Email: chchurch@coable.net.au	5221 8055
Office Administrator:	Mrs Patricia Cowling	

Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God,
providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's
love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10th January 2016

Liturgical Colour: White

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am

Sentence

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove,
and a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Prayer of the Day *

Spirit of energy and chance,
in whose power Jesus was anointed
to be the hope of nations:
be poured out also upon us
without reserve or distinction,
that we may have confidence and strength
to implant your justice on the earth;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.



* You are invited to join in this Prayer immediately before today's readings

Hymns: 9.30am: 83; 419; 322; 447

5.15pm: No service

The Vicar Writes



The Baptism of Christ is celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany as a testimony to the importance of the witness of John the Baptist who represents the prophets of old. When John was baptising he received great respect from the people and many of them questioned whether he was in fact the Messiah. John denied that he was the Messiah, but what he says about the actual Messiah is interesting.

John says that the one coming after him was more powerful and that John was unfit even to untie his bootlace. Then John says that the Messiah will come with a winnowing fork and gather the wheat into the granary and throw the chaff into the unquenchable fire. This statement does not speak of choosing good people from bad, or obedient ones from disobedient, though it has been misused in that way often. This verse speaks about the work of God as the purifier of our hearts.

Only God purifies our inner parts (though a saint may be a vehicle for this grace), so John said it is not I but he who comes after me. In other words, the one coming after John was the incarnation of God who resides in all hearts, directs the wanderings of the living beings and sees to their salvation. John therefore sets the perfect example as a saint or prophet because he points not to himself but to the Lord.

Gathering the wheat into the barns means that the Lord in the heart gathers the divine qualities dormant within us and stores them so that the fruits of the Spirit will shine forth from us. Throwing the chaff into the unquenchable fire refers to the desires we harbour that are never satisfied and burn like unquenchable fire. The Lord takes those desires from the heart of his servants so that they gradually decrease in ego (self-focus) and grow in Spirit and the selfless qualities that go with it.

Isaiah speaks of this today where he writes "when you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you". Isaiah also writes "when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you". Waters refers to the dangers of the temporary world, though the servant of God passes through pain and death the Lord remains with them at all times. The fire again refers to negative desires; the Lord assures the servants of God that desires will not consume them.

It is a simple truth that, although a servant of God experiences the same desires as everyone else, they know there is more to life than merely struggling to fulfil desires; there is also the service of the Lord which is eternal and infinitely satisfying. Therefore, seeing that desires are only a part of life, they neither deny them nor are they consumed by them. Isaiah writes that the Lord will gather his servants' offspring from every direction, and this also refers to the fruits of the Spirit that flow into one who is open both from within and without. There are many layers to Scripture, but here I am speaking about how these writings refer to the path of devotion.

Finally, the reading from Acts today speaks of those who are baptized and how the Apostles laid hands on those people that they may receive the Holy Spirit. This shows that the Sacrament of Confirmation has its origins in Scripture from Apostolic times. Of course, one may receive the Holy Spirit without being confirmed, the Holy Spirit is in everyone's heart, it is simply a matter of being open. The laying of hands and prayers of the faithful is always a help.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and harmony in the world; those suffering the aftermath of floods, especially our own land.

THE CHURCH: Anglican Church of Australia; Diocese of the Northern Territory; Melbourne Anglican Foundation; Christ Church, Kensington.

THE COMMUNITY: All community service personnel, including our firefighters.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own dear departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Chris Muir).

The Week Ahead

Wednesday, 13 th Jan	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Sunday, 17 th Jan	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	9.30am	Holy Eucharist

NEXT SUNDAY: 17TH JANUARY -SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5; Ps 40.1-14; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

REMINDER - VOLUNTEERS WANTED: A committee comprising of people from Wesley, St Mary's, Christ Church and UnitingCare in Grovedale have been working towards creating a 'drop in centre' for homeless and isolated people, at 202 Myer Street, Geelong, which is the Governor's Residence at the old Geelong Gaol. It will be known as 'The Lazarus Community Drop In Centre', and we will be operating from **Monday, 1st February**. We will have available for clients, showering and clothes washing facilities, as well as a light lunch and other activities, including gardening and playing pool. Initially, it will operate on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm, expanding to more days in accordance with need. We are requiring volunteers to help us run the centre and each shift will be for four (4) hours. A volunteer training day has been arranged for 9.30am on **Friday, 22nd January** at Wesley Church, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong. More details can be obtained from Wendy Leigh on 52224101.

THE CHRONICLE: The first edition for 2016 is due in early March – contributions are welcome now! If you have any details of items and forthcoming events, etc, please send to Phillip Swain by email to: spswain@westnet.com.au.

REMINDER - APPEAL FOR REFUGEES AT NORTH GEELONG SECONDARY COLLEGE



Goods required are pencil case packs or separate pencil cases & pencils, pens, rubbers, etc. to make up packs; 5-subject exercise books; A3 art sketch books (6 only); white polo shirts; thick black tights and money (used towards the cost of uniforms). There is a clothes basket in the coffee area. Please note that Barbara will take the goods to the school at the end of the holidays!
