

**“Psalm 124”**

If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:  
if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,

Then they would have swallowed us alive:  
when their anger was kindled against us.

Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us:  
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

But praised be the Lord:  
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:  
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.



***Thou Art the Christ, O Lord***

Thou art the Christ, O Lord,  
The Son of God, most high!"  
Forever be adored,  
That Name in earth and sky.

In which, tho' mortal strength may fail,  
The saints of God at last prevail!

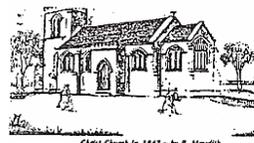
Oh, surely he was blest,  
With blessedness unpriced,  
Who taught of God, confessed  
The Godhead in the Christ!  
For of Thy Church, Lord, Thou didst own  
Thy saint a true foundation-stone.

Thrice fallen, thrice restored!  
The bitter lesson learnt,  
That heart for Thee, O Lord,  
With triple ardor burnt.  
The cross he took he laid not down  
Until he grasped the martyr's crown.

Oh bright triumphant faith!  
Oh courage void of fears!  
Oh love, most strong in death!  
Oh penitential tears!  
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,  
And make us go where Thou shalt call.

**Amen.**

[William Walsham How: 1823-1897]



**The Anglican Parish of  
Christ Church Geelong**



**“A community of faith in service to others”**

[www.christchurchgeelong.com.au](http://www.christchurchgeelong.com.au)

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**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.

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

**Sentence**

Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say I am?'  
Simon Peter answered,  
'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

**Prayer of the Day \***

**O God, fount of all wisdom,  
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter  
you have shown the foundation of our  
faith;  
give us the light of your Spirit,  
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth  
the Son of the living God,  
we may be living stones  
for the building up of your holy Church;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.. Amen**



## The Vicar Writes



With the blessings of Joseph and his goodness, the Israelites grew in strength and numbers arousing fear and suspicion amongst the Egyptians. The Egyptians dealt ruthlessly with the Hebrews putting them into forced labour and killing their first born. The cries of the Hebrews rose up to God and the Lord came in the heart of Moses to save them.

The activities of a true saint are the activities of the Lord being performed on earth so that ordinary people may seem them. That is why it is important to honour saints of any religious tradition because through them God establishes spiritual principles, the ways of heaven amongst humans. To love neighbour as self, we must have love and good will for all; to love the saints is a necessary part of loving God. The saints are surrendered to the Lord fully and are qualitatively one with God (a difference in quantity is always there; God is the most infinite and the original Supreme Being).

Paul says we are all parts of the body of Christ, each with unique spiritual gifts and each of us will eventually grow in Spirit to become a saint. This must be our serious and sincere endeavour as Paul tells us... *"Make yourselves a living sacrifice to God, do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so you may discern the will of God and do what is good, acceptable, perfect"*.

In the Gospel, Peter is made the head of the Church and given the keys to heaven. The Lord tells Peter that whatever he binds or loosens on earth shall be bound or loosened in heaven. Peter was blessed by Jesus because he had built up his intuitive powers to such an extent that he could discern that Jesus was the Christ, the Over-Soul that guides every individual soul from within. This is the specific specialty of the term Christ. It is the Christ that informs all prophets and saints everywhere and prompts ordinary folk as conscience. When Jesus asked his followers who they said he was they answered that some thought he was Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. It was Peter who perceived Jesus to be the Supreme Spirit Himself, the one that informs the prophets and not merely a prophet who was wise and well informed.

How did Peter have this profound understanding? Jesus said that flesh and blood did not reveal this to him but His Father in heaven. Wisdom derived from intuition that develops through serious prayer and devotion is not of this world. Mental speculation is any knowledge that comes through the senses or the instruments of the senses, but wisdom that is discerned from God within is transcendental, divine and uplifting for humanity and the world at large.

Each one of us may help the world and bring about divine changes in the world, making it more heavenly if we develop our prayer life, our practise of the presence of God and our service to others. Growing in love for God is the most wonderful and exciting thing. Divine consciousness repairs the broken heart, brings joy and removes fear. As we grow in love for God and neighbour we make God present, we become saintly, allowing God to work through us.

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Never underestimate your importance to the world, everyone is important. We are all living divine potential, a becoming, a flowering that is going to happen. Celebrate life as a divine gift, don't hold back or resist the love of God that wants to burst out of your heart. Let yourself go in God, surrender and let the Lord make you something original, beautiful and a jewel on earth. Every person equipped with Grace can be a Moses or a Joseph, an Elijah, so let's wake up to the celebration that never ends and live in love forever.

The Lord be with you,  
Fr Russell

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## **HALL KEYS**



*If anyone has a Hall key that is no longer in use,  
would you please return same to  
either Jan McGowan or Fr Russell please!*

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**THE WORLD:** Peace and tolerance amongst all nations; those affected by natural disasters; all efforts to produce a Covid-19 vaccine.

**THE CHURCH:** The province of South East Asia; Diocese of Bunbury; Tintern Grammar; St Thomas' Ferntree Gully Upper; St Mark's Forest Hill; St Luke's Sydenham; the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

**THE PARISH/COMMUNITY:** Those who are subject to prejudice and hostility because of their ethnic background; may God's Spirit support & encourage them in the face of racism and other forms of irrational hatred (ABM).

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

**THE DEPARTED:** Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Joan Adamson). We remember with thanks: Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr (Monday)

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## **NEXT SUNDAY -30<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2020**

### **MARTYRS OF NEW GUINEA**

**Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 130:**

**Romans 8:33-39      Gospel: John 12:20-32**

