

The Rector's Weekly Message:

Sunday the 10th of October 2021

Encouragement from the Word of God. Psalm 96:10-13

Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹ *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;*

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² *let the field exult, and everything in it.*

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³ *before the LORD; for he is coming,*

for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with his truth.

The Psalmist reminds his readers/hearers that judgement is coming. Yet, he paints a picture of judgement to cause rejoicing – and not fear. In our society, judgement is generally passed on someone who has transgressed a law. Hence it well may cause the accused to fear. The Psalmist states the LORD judges the people with equity. There is no sense that the LORD is biased, as the equity that he brings to his judgement flows from his righteousness and truth.

We do not need to fear judgement because of the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. The Apostle Paul stated: (Romans 3:24-25 NIRV)

The free gift of God's grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. ²⁵ God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith. God did all this to prove that he does what is right. He is a God of mercy. So he did not punish for their sins the people who lived before Jesus lived. ²⁶ God did all this to prove in our own time that he does what is right. He also makes right with himself those who believe in Jesus.

Fr. Ernest

Father Ernest will not be available for Sunday Duties for the rest of October. Ernest is undergoing a medical procedure and then will take time to recuperate. Would you mind praying for Ernest and his wife May as she will 'care' for him during the time of recuperation? Fr Ernest will be quietly working on his sermon, which he will deliver on his first Sunday back, the 7th of November.

Seeking a new Organist & Music Director:

Last month I wrote and advised the Parish Council of the following:

I have discussed this matter with the Warden's, and I wish to wait and not rush into a new appointment. I ask that suggestions of names not been made at the moment. This current time may be a very appropriate time to reassess the job description for the Organist and Music Director. I have asked Nicola to give some thought to any areas that could be included in the Organist and Music Director's role.

Please note:

- I. The style of music is **not** being reviewed.
- II. The type of Worship Services is **not** being reviewed.
- III. There is no hidden agenda to 'change'.
- IV. There is a fundamental question regarding the Organist and Musical Director's Roles being separated if needed.
- V. I have contacted several parishioners and asked them to join me in discussing the position of Organist, Music Director.
- VI. I encourage all parishioners to continue to pray, trusting God in his mercy to grant us a suitable person or persons.
- VII. Nicola Chau is multi-talented and an essential person of the *ministry* team.

Sesquicentennial Year:

While serving as a Rector, I have been in Parishes that celebrated various milestones, from centenary right through to one that celebrated its sesquicentennial. These celebrations have always been momentous events in each respective history. Each parish approached these celebrations in a way that was honouring to their local Church community. For all of them, I stressed that the focus should be on God. This focus on God includes reaching both the lost sheep (people who belonged but have wandered off) and providing opportunities for people to join the flock (the lost being saved).

I have expressed my desire that St. John's should seriously work towards training newly ordained men in our tradition. There is a significant shortage of parishes in our tradition that is committed to doing such godly work. This endeavour will be a long term goal.

More immediate is to strengthen further our position within the Gordon Community. Before the Pandemic, I was informed that St. John's ran a successful Play Group. The Playgroup mainly attracted carers (grandparents) of Australian born Chinese. This group has the resources, and I am seeking a Mandarin-speaking helper for this ministry. An 'English Speaking Playgroup' has the potential to be developed.

A project I would suggest is the development of a 'children's playground' at the east end of the Church Hall. Visually this may speak volumes to the local community that Children's ministry (family Ministry) is essential to members of St. Johns.

Counselling – giving direction:

An important aspect of ministry as a Priest, especially being the Rector, is Christian Counselling. Every Rector has this tremendous responsibility. This Counselling is applying the revealed Word of God to my own life and the lives of God's people under my care. This Counselling is *directive*, and it aligns with the theological understanding of sanctification. Naturally, the working out of this ministry is confidential.

May the Peace of the LORD be with you.

Fr. Robert H.
Rector