

28 July 2020

Dear Friends

Welcome to our latest weekly newsletter.

I am thankful to Susanna Denham, Helen Farley and Elizabeth Cooper for the music, flowers, and the intercessions respectively for Mass at the weekend. Thanks also to Lynn Mulley who continues faithfully in her ministry of giving us a Pew Sheet every week. Services at St John's this week will be as follows:

Holy Communion

- Saturday at 6pm – **1 August 2020** – livestreamed this week only
- Sunday at 9am – **2 August 2020** – livestreamed
- Wednesday at 9am – **5 August 2020**
- Morning Prayer – livestreamed daily at 8am – Tuesday to Saturday
- Evening Prayer – livestreamed daily at 5pm – Tuesday to Saturday

Friday 31 July saw us resume Scripture at Raymond Terrace Public School following a lengthy break due to coronavirus.

This Saturday evening at 6pm, we will be admitting 3 children to Holy Communion – Zac Denham, and Nina and Elia Giacometti – who are grandchildren of Don and Susanna Denham. There will be family and friends in Church. Nina and Elia's father Giaco will be tuning in from New Zealand. Other family and friends from interstate and overseas including Switzerland will also be tuning in.

Our Zoom Bible Study group continues to meet. We have just begun a study based on a Christian Movie called "Overcomer" – which a small group of us viewed last year. Its main topic for discussion is "who we are in CHRIST".

On Sunday 23 August, Bishop Sonia will be visiting us. She will meet with Parish Council after the service for a short time.

This coming week we have:

- a funeral at 11:00am on Monday.
- Our usual services on Wednesday
- SRE at Raymond Terrace Public School
- A baptism on Saturday morning

Under the heading "**Joy In The Morning**", I was directed to Psalm 30:5 – "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*"

It's interesting that David follows a pattern of looking at the day that was begun in the creation account in Genesis. He says that weeping comes in the night, but joy comes in the morning. If you remember, when GOD created the heavens and the earth, He said, "The evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:5). We tend to think just the opposite, don't we? We think of morning followed by the evening.

I think there are wonderful truths embedded in GOD's perspective on life. If we will look at our day as the evening and the morning instead of the morning and the evening, we will begin our day in the evening by meditating on what we need to accomplish the next day and asking GOD's blessing on it. Then He is free to work in our heart and mind as we sleep to prepare us for accomplishing those things. When CHRIST returns there will be no more weeping. Weeping is ours during the night; but our eternal joy is coming in the morning of CHRIST's return.

[David Jeremiah – Morning and Evening Devotions – Thomas Nelson Publishers]

If you would like to explore what's available in studying the bible more or praying more, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by text message – 0401 061 789, Facebook Messenger, or email – [frsteve@bigpond.com](mailto:frsteve@bigpond.com)

**Thank you to Heather Buckingham** who keeps us updated on our Parish Pantry Ministry. Please refer to the Pew Sheet for all the details.

**Prayer points for this week:**

- A reduction in the spread of the coronavirus
- May all people obey the directions of the health department and use caution in all our dealings
- Peace in our world and increasing respect for and between people
- Children to be brought for baptism and their families
- **Those GOD is calling to the ministry of SRE teaching to come forward**

- For politicians and their advisors, be guided to get the appropriate balance between Public Health needs and the needs of the economy
- The people of Victoria and those in hot spots and clusters in other states as we seek to control the spread of coronavirus.
- People who are on our parish prayer list and those who mourn

Under the heading of “**Embrace**” the bible in the Song of Songs tells us “A sachet of myrrh is my lover, like a tied-up bundle of myrrh **resting over my heart.**” *Song of Songs 1:13*

Rest in His love today. Embrace the One who loves you with perfect love. Let the knowledge and reality of His holy passion settle deep within our heart. His love has redeemed us from sin and death. His love is real, tangible, and unmatched by any other. Fall back into the arms of the One who continually reaches out to draw us near. All that we need to face the day, is found in His presence. **Wisdom, peace, joy, faith, and prosperity are gifts waiting to be exchanged for our baggage.** As we look upon His face, doubt and fear melt away. He is the kind and generous Shepherd who leads us on our journey – just take His hand and see where He leads. Our future is safe in His hands.

*JESUS, I turn my heart to you. As I rest in your presence and look upon your face, I experience deep peace unlike anything I've ever known. I'm coming closer, LORD – coming with all my burdens and cares, which I will lay at your feet. Wrap me in your arms and seal my heart with a holy kiss. Bathe me in the light of your glory, and I will forever be ruined for anything less. AMEN*

[Taken from *The Divine Romance*– 365 Days Meditating on the Song of Songs]

On a personal note:

Thank you for all your messages of love following the birth of our 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Percy, this week. Percy, his mother, Elizabeth, and his father, Michael, are all well; and will be re-united with big-brother Fred this weekend. Thank you also for messages received about our son Josh's appearance on ABC's One plus One on Thursday evening.

May GOD richly bless you as you journey with Him this week.

Fr Steve