

Notices

SAVE THE DATE. The annual parish dinner will be held on Saturday 14th July.

Don't forget to wear your name tags. This will make it easier for Zec to learn who you are as well as for those visiting St Edward's.

Lenten studies on Sunday evenings continue at 6 pm. This year's theme: "The art of contemplation in a noisy world. Seeking Christ through silence." No, contemplation is not for professionals or hermits but for everyday people too.

Prayer requests –Please let Beth Gibbs or Liz Helmond know.

Prayers of the people

- Lillian Sheppard as she recovers from keyhole surgery.
- For Liz Helmond who is making good progress following her knee replacement operation. She is resting at home and having regular physiotherapy.
- Please pray for Dawn's granddaughter Alysha who has been diagnosed with a brain malformation which is the cause of her epilepsy.
- Max MacCann has moved to the Peter James Centre, West Ward, where he will remain for the next three weeks. Ph: 9881 1888.
- For Peter, the brother of Liz, who is undergoing treatment for stomach cancer.
- For Peta Foote's daughter Lorna who has complications and illness due to her lung cancer.
- For Des Andrews whose ulcer on his leg is slowly healing.

Please pray for the work of Michael, Melanie & Aaron Viljoen – Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon.

Sermon notes continued The solution is that God will give us a new heart, one of flesh, not stone (Jeremiah 31:33-34). This is God's promise to us, and also a sign of the new agreement (covenant) he makes with us in Jesus Christ. It will be a different covenant from the one Israel entered into under Moses however. The Law will be written in our hearts, not on tablets of stone, like it was under Moses (2 Cor 3:3). How is this achieved? By the work of the Holy Spirit. He indwells us and changes us and takes what the Law prescribed, and outworks their values in our daily lives (2 Cor 3:17-18). We are transformed by His work, and love God 'wholeheartedly'. The trick, like in marriage, is to daily spend some time with the one you love, and to make a determined decision not to be tempted to go after someone else.

Welcome to St Edward's

We are familiar with the expression, 'a broken heart', or 'a heart ache', to describe the profound depth of emotions associated with longing and grief. Conversely, a young man courting a woman is said to 'win her heart', and those who are said to have 'no heart', have no sympathy. We might also say, 'take heart', meaning, to have courage or enthusiasm. There is its opposite as well, 'to have my heart in my mouth', to describe being frightened. I like the expression in particular, 'to wear one's heart on their sleeve', meaning, to reveal one's feelings or intentions.

There is a particular problem with the heart though: it can be deceitful. We are often unable to see the deeper motivations which others see in us (Jeremiah 17:9-10). God himself can see the true condition of our heart with its mixed motives and fickle commitment to him. Despite Israel's well intentioned motives to love God whole heartedly (there's another use of the word!), she kept on breaking her commitment to him and took other lovers – the idols which surrounded Israel and trusted in her military alliances for protection. Her heart was deceitful; she adhered to God's law superficially, but her heart was far from him (Isaiah 29:13). This cold hearted, superficial religious adherence, dogged Israel in the time of Jesus too, and he condemned it, quoting the Isaiah passage (Mark 7:6-7).

What is the solution then, to our tendency to be cold-hearted toward God, to call on him and use him in a time of need as a convenient prop or idol who will save us, only to ignore him until the next disaster strikes?

St Edward's Anglican Church

18th March 2018
5th Sunday Lent

Address

59 Edinburgh Road
Blackburn Sth
Victoria 3130
Office: 9877 3665

Minister

Rev Rob Culhane
rculhane@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0412 832 328

Service times

8 am & 10 am.

Wardens

Jenny Lynch	9877 6338
Mobile	0490 951 549
Ken Pakes	9897 3454
Chris Ross-Stubbs	0438 353 340

Website: stedwards.org.au

Verse of the Day

‘This is the covenant I will make with them,’ says the Lord God: ‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.’

(Jeremiah 31:33)

Prayer of the Day

**O God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:31-34	(p. 793)
Psalm	119:9-16	(APBA, 349)
Gospel	John 12:20-33	(p. 1080)

Hymns

59 “All people on earth do dwell”
546 “Lord Jesus think on me”
679 “God of Jeremiah grieving”

Praise and Thanksgiving to God

Welcome, Verse of the Day and verses of scripture (Sitting)

Thanksgiving prayer (OHP) (APBA, 36)

Song: MP 1122 “We are a moment” (OHP) x 2

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:31-34	(p. 793)
Psalm	119:9-16	(APBA, 349)
Affirmation of faith		(APBA, p. 37)
The Sermon		

Song: 398 “Come down O love divine”

Confession of sin

Confession and Absolution (OHP)	(APBA p. 38)
Declaration of God’s forgiveness	(APBA p. 39)
Assurance of God’s forgiveness	(APBA, p. 39)

Ministry of prayer + Lord’s Prayer (APBA p. 40)

Notices

Sending out of God’s people (OHP) (APBA p. 40)

Song: 679 “God of Jeremiah grieving”

Benediction (APBA, p. 40)