

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF KILCOY/ WOODFORD



St. Mary's
Kilcoy



St. Matthias
Woodford



Mt. Mee
Community Church

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev'd Jilleen Chambers
PO Box 86 Kilcoy Q 4515
Phone 5497 1015 or 0447 512 818
Email: kilcoyanglican@bigpond.com
<http://kilcoywoodford.anglicanchurchsq.org.au>

Churchwardens: Wayne Murray 0418 744 021
Debbie Good 0488 743 258
Sandra Munt 5496 1889
or 0407 115 086

Easter 7 May 16th 2021

Welcome

St. Mary's, Kilcoy

Sundays, 8.00 am – 36 in the church
Wednesdays, 9.30 am

St. Matthias', Woodford

Sundays, 10.00 am – 28 in the church
2nd Tuesdays, 9.30 am

Mt. Mee Community Church

*Services suspended
until further notice*

Bellthorpe Community Hall

5.30pm – 30th May 2021

*God gave us
eternal life,
and this life is
in his Son*

1 John 5: 11

Holy Communion is available to all baptised & communicant members of Christian churches. All are invited to come forward to receive either a blessing or Holy Communion. Please join us at the end of the service for refreshments.

TODAY'S LITURGY

We Welcome: Bishop Jeremy Greaves

Welcome to: Donald Walker and Sheila Woodward who will be received into Membership

Sentence:

Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' John 1. 11

Collect:

Almighty God,

Your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth until the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26- *A reading from Acts Chapter 1, beginning at the 15th verse.*

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 1: (APBA p 224)

Second Reading: 1 John 5: 9-13- *A reading from 1 John, Ch 5, beginning at the 9th verse.*

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. *Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.***

Gospel: John 17: 6-19- *The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John Ch 17, beginning 6th verse –* 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

For those who are sick/ in need: Len and Jules, Simon, Patricia, Helen, Olive, Wayne, Ann, Sue, Wendy, Dale, Debbie, Richard and Ellen.

For our parish: Loving God, bless and enable each person in this parish; inspire us in our vision and

guide us in our planning and working together. May our lives so reflect the light of your kingdom that others may see and be drawn to your presence. May they come to know the grace and peace of your everlasting love for all your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Continue to pray for: Our wonderful School Chaplains:

Kilcoy: Kate Gold; **Mt Kilcoy** Rob Turner; **Woodford:** Amy Head; **Delaneys Crk:** Monique Robertson

For Everyone affected by COVID 19: For equal access to the COVID vaccines for all countries and the resolving of supply issues. For the willingness of people to be vaccinated.

Please pray for: The unemployed and underemployed; for the homeless and people in rental stress; the victims of domestic and family violence; and for the victims of child abuse.

Praise God for: all the wondrous blessings we have received as God's beloved children

WEEKLY & COMING EVENTS

Mondays: Bible Study at St Mary's 9.30am: Come and join us.

Wednesdays 9.30am: Weekly Service at St Mary's. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 19th May 6.30pm: Parish Council meeting – in Kilcoy

Sunday 30th May 5.30pm: Service at Bellthorpe in the Community Hall. Followed by a bring and share meal. Everyone is welcome to join us on the mountain for a great time of fellowship.

CHURCH NOTICES

Diary Date: Saturday 5th June at 11am. The 20th Anniversary Ecumenical Covenant Service will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Woodford. **NB: RSVP ESSENTIAL- BOOK by 1st June** – Contact Della or Rev Jilleen – see the notice board for more information. Followed by a light lunch. This is a fantastic milestone for the Covenant between Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Church. Please add your name and contact details to the service attendance list at the back of the church. *(As we will need to ensure COVID rules are observed – it is advisable to arrive a little early.)*

Thank you to everyone who assisted in any way with our very successful Monster May Market (cooking, plants, produce, selling, raffling, etc) in Woodford Saturday 8th. We raised over \$2,300.

Parish Notice: The parish has submitted an application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for improvements to St Mary's Kilcoy Hall – for: a large bank of solar panels, insulation in the ceiling and to line the small storeroom. (The parish will need to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty for the Solar Panels) These improvements will make the hall more comfortable in summer.

Thoughts to Ponder: Absence Makes the Heart Grow – by Br Keith Nelson SSJE

We know that the familiar adage 'Absence makes the heart grow' ends with the cheery adjective "fonder." To feel the absence of someone we cherish *does* often deepen our love the longer we are apart. But absence may also make the heart grow numb or inert, grief-stricken or depressed, baffled or enraged. Absence can make the heart grow *hopeless*.

When I focus instead on the word *grow*, something shifts. The trajectory of our growth in God is through and beyond this kaleidoscope.

If the feeling of absence in our lives has anything to do with the purposes of God, growth will be its gift, but not in a way we can predict or even recognize. This has been the experience of many saints, whose patient endurance through the night of God's felt absence has catalysed their growth, not in fondness but in holiness. As in any relationship of true love, growth in Christ gives rise to many feelings. But it does not *depend* upon those feelings, and the presence of feelings we consider encouraging or consoling is not in itself a sign of growth, any more than their absence is a sign of stasis. Sometimes the opposite is true! Growth in God strengthens us both to treasure

the joy of Christ's felt presence, and to trust the slow, hidden growth called forth when we feel God is absent. This depth of trust is deeply challenging.

Thus far, I have used the terms "*felt presence*" and "*felt absence*." This is because we believe God to be omnipresent. God is never *not* present and God is present to every created thing in an equal manner. That we *feel* this not to be always true is a mark of our limited capacity as creatures.

Crucially, however, God uses that limited perspective and those exact feelings to our benefit, as we shall see. God begins to effect the healing of this fragmented perspective by becoming one of us. The attraction of that Love-made-human coaxes forth an affective response. We fall in love! While the mystery of God-with-us in the person of Jesus is offensive to the reasoning mind, it is beautiful, desirable, even *irresistible* to the heart that embraces him in the manger, beholds him on the cross, or touches his risen body.

But our contemporary idolization of instantly legible positive feelings sometimes creates an unhelpful impression: that the Incarnation is solely about knowing God's presence in a way that stimulates, supports, or soothes, rather than challenges expectations or catalyses change. After all, didn't God become flesh to comfort us in our afflictions and fill us with joy? Isn't that why we need to worship together physically – to be the consoling embrace of Christ's arms to one another, the members of his Body? Isn't that why we need to commune with him in the Eucharist – to feel his presence filling our emptiness? *(To be continued)*

PRAY DAILY: *The Anglican Church of Korea. *The Diocese of Newcastle: †Peter Stuart; Assistant Bishops; Clergy and People. *The Parish of St John's Cathedral: Peter Catt, Clergy and People *Liturgical Assistants in parishes and schools. *The Glennie School, Toowoomba: **Principal** - Mary Anne Evans; Chaplain - Sharon Mitchell; School Council; staff & students.

PEW REFLECTIONS. May 16th 2021 - Text: Robert McLean ABM's Partnerships Coordinator ABM, 2021.- Today the Psalmist gives us good guidance. He tells us that we should avoid ungodliness, sin and scornfulness. We should take delight in God's law. One way we can do just that is to read the Bible every day. Regular reading of the Scriptures brings us closer to God and his people over many centuries. May we all devote a little more time to getting more deeply acquainted with the Scriptures every day. **Give thanks** for the easy access we have to Scripture through printed Bibles, online bibles and apps for our tablets and phones. **Give thanks** for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

FUTURE READINGS

23rd May – Day of Pentecost (R)

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 26-36

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

30th May – Trinity Sunday (W)

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Romans 8: 12-17

Psalm 29

John 3: 1-17

BLESSING: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

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