

Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church

Queanbeyan, Karabar, Jerrabomberra, Burra, Googong, Michelago

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



The graves of the Melanesian Brothers martyred in Guadalcanal 24th April 2003

Parish Bulletin

31st January 2010

Love is patient, love is kind. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

You are welcome

A warm welcome to everyone. You are worshipping among friends. We trust that in this time of worship you will know the joy and healing of Jesus Christ our Lord. You are welcome to join us as pilgrims with Christ on our life's journey. Our Mission statement: "Growing Communities confident in Christ" is lived-out by a people of faith who serve our City in the strength of God's love.

The rejection of Jesus and the Persecuted Church

During the month of February our Mission Giving is for the persecuted church. You can give money for this cause by either putting it in the Giving Envelope in the section marked "Beyond the Parish" or put it in a separate envelope marked "Mission Giving" or and place it in the collection bowl.

Karen Bos from our Burra and Karabar congregations has given leadership and prayer for many years to the organisation in Australia that supports Christians who are being persecuted. This organisation is going through some changes in name and leadership at the moment but it is linked to Christian Solidarity International in Zurich, founded by a Swiss pastor who was moved to action by the vulnerability of isolated Christian groups who were seen as easy prey of totalitarian regimes because no one would defend them.



The organisation most recently called "Tears of the Oppressed" is negotiating for the right to use the name Christian Freedom International (Australasia).

I am very grateful to Karen for writing this article about the persecuted church.

When Jesus walked through the midst of the enraged Nazarenes, the pain of their violent rejection must surely have accompanied him. Jesus is Truth; Truth challenges pride, so many reject Him violently.

In North Africa and the Middle East, in South East Asia and China, in North Korea and the nations of the former USSR there are millions within the Body of Christ who share His suffering - rejection, abandonment, imprisonment, torture and death simply because they share His name.

Those who work to alleviate the suffering feel overwhelmed and under-resourced, yet are greatly inspired by their courage, resilience and faith; aware of the ultimate grace which has been extended by those who have lost their own children, yet are able to forgive those who have saved theirs by denying Christ, and welcome them back into the Christian community.

The apostles suffered persecution because they steadfastly preached the Gospel and even 'rejoiced that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus'. None of us could have received the gift of Salvation but for the courage and faithfulness of those who followed their example through the ages; who responded to the love of God rather than the fear of man; who preached good news to the poor, proclaimed the freedom Jesus promised to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release for the oppressed. They knew the cost but out of love for both God and man, were prepared to pay it.

We are blessed to live freely in a land where faith is challenged, not by the threat of persecution, but by the Christ-like response of those who have endured and overcome it to be torchbearers for Him in some of the darkest, most dangerous places in the world. Please pray for them.

News and Notices

- ❖ The troubled area of **Northern Nigeria** where Christians are being persecuted continues to make headlines. A whirlwind of communal violence in a village on the outskirts of Jos left nearly 500 Christians and Muslims dead last week.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide spoke of unprovoked attacks on Christian worshippers. The Anglican Archbishop of Jos, the Most Revd Ben



Trinity Anglican Church destroyed



Kwashi said, 'At the heart of this is that they (Muslims) want to overrun this part of the world and make it Islamic.' He appealed for peace, however, saying, 'The Gospel that I preach does not allow for vengeance in the face of provocation.'

- ❖ The work of relief continues in Haiti as hundreds of Haitians made homeless by the island's earthquake gathered in Port-au-Prince to praise God for their survival. Surrounded by makeshift shelters in the city's Champs de Mars park, the faith of the praising, weeping crowd 'remains unshaken'.



- ❖ **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 17th February.**

There will be services at Christ Church at 7am and 10am and at Burra at 7.30am. There is a helpful Lent book available written by **Bishop John Parkes**. Called "**A Spendthrift Lover**" it contains five studies focusing on the extravagant generosity of God. The readings are based on the 2010 lenten lectionary readings and books will be available next week. Also during Lent and Easter James will be leading the Sunday services at Christ Church and Ian those in Burra and Michelago.

- ❖ **CMS Mission Focus in Canberra 26th & 27th February at St John's Reid.** Brochures and information at churches. Please register.

- ❖ We are enormously grateful to **Jeff Knowles** [a resident of Jerrabomberra, teacher at Canberra Grammar School and Founder of Eco-footprints a business to assist households to use less non-renewable energy] who has spent many hours doing an energy audit of the Rectory and giving clear advice about how to make the house warmer in winter [it is usually like a fridge] and cooler in summer [like an oven upstairs]. Jeff has given many hours of his time, thought and ideas. Over the coming months we will work to impliment his ideas. Much of the work needed is low-tech so many people will be able to help.



- ❖ Today we welcome **Skylar Farrugia** for baptism at Christ Church

- ❖ **A Quiet Weekend for women "Towards Freedom"** from 19th - 21st February at The Hermitage Mittagong. The weekend begins with dinner on Friday and ends after lunch on the Sunday. Cost \$190. More information take a leaflet or talk to Liz on 6299 3920



Readings for Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – 7th February

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Prayers for the coming week

Prayers for God's people: Remember those in need of our prayers including: Lyn Boucher, Lyn Lyon, Russel Avery, Joan Cobcroft, Donna Deluca, Joan Hogan and Nin Collet: those who mourn the loss of loved ones;

Sunday: On the 1st anniversary of his consecration give thanks for the leadership of Bishops Stuart and Jane. Pray for them and for Bp Trevor and pray for the mission of the Church in our Parish and Diocese.

Monday: Pray for all those who are ill at home or in hospital.

Tuesday [Presentation of Christ]: Pray for our country.

Wednesday: Pray for our young people returning to school over the coming days. Pray for teachers in our congregations and for James's ministry of chaplaincy at Jerrabomberra Public School.

Thursday: Pray for local businesses in Queanbeyan, for those who run them and for leaders in our community.

Friday: Continue to pray for the people of Haiti.

Saturday: Pray for those recovering from bush fires.



Regular Sunday Worship

Christ Church	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10am	Holy Communion [with Sunday School]
St Matthew's (Karabar)	9.45am	Prayer and worship
St Paul's (Burra)	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.45am	Family Worship
Jerrabomberra	5.00pm	Contemporary worship Community Hall
St Thomas' Michelago	9.30am	Holy Communion [1 st & 3 rd Sundays]

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion: Christ Church

Saturday 6pm Eucharist: the Chapel of the Celebration Community [15 Callum St]

Clergy Team

The Ven. Ian Palmer	<i>Team Leader</i>	6299 3920 mobile	0411 242 596
The Rev. James Wood	<i>Associate Priest</i>	6297 6241 mobile	0429 128 388
The Rev. Michael Cockayne	<i>Celebration Community</i>	6297 8099	
The Rev. Mary Thorn	<i>Deacon</i>	6297 3395 mobile	0412 894 315
The Rev. Gayl Mills	<i>AFP Chaplain</i>	62853442 mobile	0421 099 194
The Rev. Ann Burt	<i>Deacon</i>	6232 9160 mobile	0408 800 392

Edith Allen is at the Parish Office Monday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 1pm:

Phone: 02 6299 3920 [After hours the phone goes through to the Rectory.]

email address: ian.palmer@queanbeyananglican.org.au

james.wood@queanbeyananglican.org.au

office@queanbeyananglican.org.au

