



MORDIALLOC MOORINGS

*A weekly newsletter from
St Nicholas Anglican Church, Mordialloc*

26th September 2021 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

From Fr. Ron

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all well and keeping positive in these difficult times. If this last week was anything to go by, I would say perplexing could be another adjective to use. Scenes of 'protest' (I use the word very loosely in this context) on Melbourne's CBD streets, and then an earthquake! I hope everyone was not too unsettled by that seismic event. It was a singular experience to sit in my kitchen and feel the Vicarage literally 'wobble' from side to side.

How ever we wish to read the signs of the times, we can at least say we are in strange times.

As hard as church ministry has been these last 18 months, my prediction is that the next few months leading up to and beyond early November are going to be extra demanding and difficult.

I know many pray for the parish already, but I would ask that you do so especially, partuculary asking for courage and wisdom for myself, the Wardens and Parish Council as we prepare for the re-opening of face to face worship under the conditions allowed by the State Governemt and the Diocese.

On a more positive note, the Mordi Market last Saturday was considerably busier than I thought it would be, with the parish sausage sizzle doing a brisk trade. Around \$170 was raised through this activity. Peace and Grace to you. Fr Ron.

FOCUSING ON THE WORD OF GOD TODAY...

(18th Sunday after Pentecost: Mark 9:38-50, James 5:12-20, Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22)

Please note that the scriptural passages for the Sunday can be found in the worship resource which accompanies the Mordialloc Moorings each week)

Once again, the disciples think they have it so right, when in fact they have it all wrong! We can almost hear the eager sincerity with which the disciples approached Jesus to tell them that they stopped someone doing Jesus' work in Jesus' name, but who wasn't a member of their group (Mark 9:38-50). As I said, they thought they had done a great thing!

But, here is the lesson they (and we) needed to learn: the ministry of Jesus doesn't belong to us. It's not ours to give or deny, because it is God's work, and though we may want to try and protect the church from "outsiders" that's not our job. We don't get to say who is in, and who is out. That isn't our burden to bear.

This is our last reading from the Letter of James for this year. Next week we begin our journey through the Letter to the Hebrews. James, who as I said last week is identified as the "brother of the Lord," and who we see in Acts is the 'leader' of the early Christian community in Jerusalem, finishes his letter with this wonderful vision about what Christian community is all about (James 5:13-20).

It's the place where the sick and suffering can receive prayer, the place where people of faith will lay hands on you to ask God for healing, the place where people who have been blessed with much can give thanks and praise, and the place where sins can be spoken out loud and not only will no one offer judgement, but people will offer forgiveness.

The Book of Esther is a short narrative found in the Old Testament. It tells what is a great story of the somewhat unlikely orphan queen Esther; the king of Persia, and the redemption of God's People in an uncertain time (Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22). Our Jewish brothers and sisters especially remember this story every year on the Feast of Purim. When the Jewish people were set to be systematically persecuted, Queen Esther outs herself as a Jew to her husband the King, and asks for his protection for her people – protection which is granted.

PRAYER

Sometimes my burden feels like too much to bear, O God.
Help me to remember that your yoke is easy and your burden light.
Help me to remember that anything I bear,
I don't bear alone,
and that you are with me always. Amen.

AS YOU TAKE A WALK TODAY, THINK ABOUT THIS.....

- † What burdens do we bear?
- † What feels like too much?
- † Do we feel alone?
- † Are we REALLY alone?
- † How can we use our faith to remind us that God is with us, and helps us bear our burdens?

SOCIAL MEDIA....

Share how Christian community supports others when they are burdened, sick, suffering, or guilty. That might be hard in our lockdown times, but the world is large, and God is at work in many places. Share how God works through a local community on good days and bad days.

SOMETHING TO SMILE OVER...



ARCHBISHOP'S WEEKLY REFLECTION.... Title: Prayer on the way to COP 26

The link is: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C5HUB5MXTw

This Newsletter comes from the Parish of St Nicholas Mordialloc
Vicar: Fr. Ron Johnson – 0409 024 136 ---
Email: vicar@stnicholasmordi.org.au
Parish contact: 9580 1192; office@stnicholasmordi.org.au