



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!
SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2018
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Welcome to the Year of Mark. Over the next 11 months our Gospel readings are going to be predominately unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Mark's Gospel was the first Gospel written, scholars place the Gospel anywhere from 65CE–75CE. Written for a gentile audience, Mark is concerned with bringing Gentiles into the Jewish flocks in a law free way. As we enter into the 1st century through the eyes of Mark, everything is symbolic. His healings, his feedings and the teachings of Jesus is how the Markan community remembers Jesus. Mark uses a two-fold method in his writing - for example in he heals 2 blind men, the first is healed partially and then fully, the second is healed fully first time. Symbolic of the person who was healed understanding of the Messiah and the good news of God. There are 2 feeding stories, the first to the Jews and the second to the Gentiles. Symbolic of the good news that God is here for all, not just a select group. Mark has Jesus traveling all over the country side, every time you see the words—'he got in a boat' or similar, we have Mark placing Jesus in places that were unclean and clean alike. This Jesus that we see in Mark is for everybody and no place is beyond him. Interestingly enough the earliest manuscripts of Mark have it ending at the empty tomb. Jesus is out and travelling the world. He is everywhere and no where. Enjoy your year of Mark.

THE REV'D TIFFANY SPARKS PRESIDING AND PREACHING

Next Week's Readings

- 1 Samuel 3.1-10
- Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18
- 1 Corinthians 6.12-20
- John 1.43-51

Sentence: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10.38

Collect: Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

•**Readings:** Genesis 1.1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.

**4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

**6 He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

**8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry ‘Glory.’**

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

**10 The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

Mark 1.4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for :

- * Our Church family and community
- * Our volunteers—and all who help in the mission of the Church

We pray for :

- *
- *
- *

For health and healing for :

Thomas Moore, Beryl and Tom Wakefield, Anthony Bugden, Saloni Paul, Fred Morrison, Theda Lowe, Jan, Romola Squire, Fr Neville and Eileen Jackson, Sue McCurdy, Gillian, Kerry Muir and Jocelyn O’Neill.

At home or nursing home :

Jean Ward, Noela Burdett and Joyce Shearing.

•**Readings:** 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; John 1.43-51

Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:

you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.

² You discern my path and the places where I rest:

you are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

**⁴ You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.**

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

**¹² For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

¹³ I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are your acts, and wonderful your works.

**¹⁴ You knew my soul,
and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

¹⁵ Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:
and in your book were all my members written;

**¹⁶ Day by day they were fashioned:
and not one was late in growing.**

¹⁷ How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:
and how great is the sum of them!

**¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they are more in number than the sand:
were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.**

John 1.43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2018

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sentence: We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel! John 1.41, 49

Collect: Eternal God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, is now exalted as Lord of all, and pours out his gifts upon the Church: grant it that unity which only your Spirit can give, keep us in the bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship before your throne; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

•**Readings:** Jonah 3.1-10; Psalm 62.5-12; 1 Corinthians 7.29-31; Mark 1.14-20

Psalm 62.5-12

Mark 1.14-20

5 Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God:
for from him comes my hope.

**6 He only is my rock and my salvation:
my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.**

7 In God is my deliverance and my glory:
God is my strong rock and my shelter.

**8 Trust in him at all times, O my people:
pour out your hearts before him, for God is
our refuge.**

9 The children of Adam are but breath,
the children of earth are a lie:
place them in the scales and they fly upward,
they are as light as air.

**10 Put no trust in extortion,
do not grow worthless by robbery:
if riches increase, set not your heart upon
them.**

11 God has spoken once, twice have I heard
him say:
that power belongs to God,

**12 That to the Lord belongs a constant
goodness:
for you reward each one of us according to
our works.**

Now after John was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of
God, and saying, 'The time is
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God
has come near; repent, and
believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of
Galilee, he saw Simon and his
brother Andrew casting a net into
the lake—for they were
fishermen. And Jesus said to
them, 'Follow me and I will make
you fish for people.'

And immediately they left their
nets and followed him. As he
went a little farther, he saw
James son of Zebedee and his
brother John, who were in their
boat mending the nets.
Immediately he called them; and
they left their father Zebedee in
the boat with the hired men, and
followed him.

**SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2018
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Sentence: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1.15

Collect: Bountiful God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom: teach us, like Christ's first apostles, to hear the call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

•**Readings:** Deuteronomy 18.15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8.1-13; Mark 1.21-28

Psalm 111

¹ O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:

in the company of the upright and among the congregation.

² The works of the Lord are great: and studied by all who take delight in them.

³ His deeds are majestic and glorious: and his righteousness stands for ever.

⁴ His marvellous acts have won him a name to be remembered:

the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He gives food to those that fear him: he remembers his covenant for ever.

⁶ He showed his people the power of his acts: in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just: and all his commandments are sure;

⁸ They stand firm for ever and ever: they are done in faithfulness and in truth.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever: holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments: his praise shall endure for ever.

Mark 1.21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sentence: Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. Matthew 9.35

Collect: God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?



PLEASE NOTE: there will be one service on Sunday at 8:30am through to the end of January.

THE THRIFT SHOP—will open on Saturday 13 January, then Saturday 20 January, and then the following Wednesday and Saturday as usual.

ST PAUL'S PARISH OFFICE—will reopen on 23 January 2018. For emergency pastoral care please contact Rev'd Tiffany on 0405224616; office phone messages and emails will be checked during the break.

MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Wednesday mornings at 9:05am. If you are interested please come along. All Welcome!

PRACTICALLY SPIRITUAL—This is a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Rev'd Tiffany or Rev'd Kathy on how to become involved.

BOOK CLUB—Our summer read 'Remarkable Creatures' by Tracy Chevalier, tells of how one woman's gift transcends class and social prejudice to lead to some of the most important discoveries of the 19th Century. If you enjoy reading do come and join us. Our next meeting is set for 7:30pm Tuesday 6 February at the home of Sue Barker. For more information talk to Ann Caston.

BOARD GAME GROUP—Run by David Adams. Every second Saturday in the Crypt at 7.30pm. All welcome!

JUBILEE TERRACE PLAY-GROUP—Resumes Friday 2 February 2018. For more information contact Sarah Combe on ph: 0403 771 442.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY

How Funs are Used?

Your giving to our parish community helps our community grow! Your donations go towards having a full time minister, electricity, insurance, rates, copyright, cleaning, music ministry, supporting Children's Church, grounds maintenance, Mission giving to Anglican Board of Mission, Bush Ministry Fund and the Anglicare women's' shelter. These are agencies that provide clean water to 3rd world communities, educational opportunities and safe shelters to the vulnerable. Without your contributions our parish would not be able to support a full time minister, pay the costs of running the parish and to support these wonderful missions. Every dollar goes towards making a difference to Ashgrove and to the world.

HEARING IMPAIRED?

St Paul's has provision for people with hearing impairment. A headset is available from the back of church, or a receiver for those with a hearing aid (turn on and switch ear piece to the T switch).

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA**

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OUR MISSION

**WE PARTICIPATE IN
GOD'S MISSION OF
TRANSFORMING
INDIVIDUALS AND
COMMUNITIES,
OFFERING MEANING
FOR TODAY AN HOPE
FOR TOMORROW
THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST.**

HELP US GROW!!!

Bank online!!

For easier ways to give and build up St. Paul's and our mission. Give online.

Account Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish.
BSB 704901 Acc No 00004420



BITCOINS ACCEPTED HERE!!!

St. Paul's is the first Church in Australia to accept virtual currency! Scan code for our wallet details!



WHO ARE WE? MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S

Rector:

The Reverend Tiffany Sparks
0405224616

tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Hon Associate Priest: The Reverend Pam Hynd: pam.hynd@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Honorary Priests: The Reverend Kathy Hammer and the Reverend Jack Hammer: jkhammer@bigpond.net.au

Wardens: Peoples Wardens: Sarah Combe and Rae Haggarty; **Priest's Warden:** George McCallan

Welcoming-Care Group: Elizabeth Sillano and Gill Outen

Choir: Robyn Carl

Rosters: Tiffany Sparks

Thrift Shop: Margaret Marshall & Deborah Walker

Mother's Union: Joy Lloyd

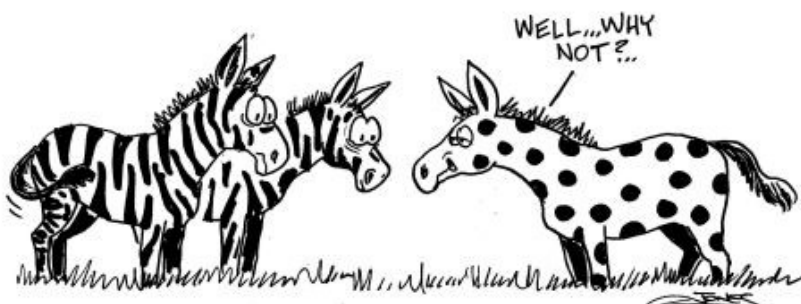
Playgroup: Sarah Combe

Book Club: Ann Caston

For all inquiries please email the office: info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**Rev Tiff—
Stewardship.**

Money is always hard to talk about. We are a self funded community and I love this place. I want it to be around for our children and our grandchildren. This means giving now and consistently, to preserve our community and message for generations to come.



A Year with St Mark

