

# ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!  
SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2018  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

John 12:24

Most assuredly, I say to you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,  
it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Towards the end of her life, when my mother could no longer quite move around due to failing eyesight and weak knees, there were times when she intimated that she wished the Lord would already call her “home.” There was no hint of fear or anxiety on her part about the prospect of her coming face to face with the Lord. At more than 80 years old, she felt she had lived to the full and was ready.

For most of us, however, the prospect of death certainly evokes fear and dread. As much as possible we want to postpone it indefinitely.

In the Gospel, Jesus senses that the “hour” of his end is coming near. Being in Jerusalem and having to face his enemies, he must realize the moment is coming. Surprisingly, Jesus confesses that his heart is troubled, implying that he is afraid and anxious of the possibility—perhaps because he foresees he will die a violent death. However, he also declares bravely that he will not ask the Father to save him from the “hour,” for he says he has come precisely to face the “hour.”

Realizing, perhaps, that his disciples need to understand and be strong before his impending suffering and death, Jesus declares to them, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit” (v 24). Jesus understands that while it is not to be sought for, death is something necessary every one of us has to go through if we are to experience a fuller life. The agricultural imagery illustrates very well how “much fruit” or a “greater harvest” can be reaped only if the seed falls to the ground and dies. We cannot keep the seed and bear fruit at the same time. This is the law of nature; **Cont. pg 4**

**THE REV'D KATHY HAMMER PRESIDING  
AND RICHARD JAMES PREACHING**

### Next Week's Readings

- Isaiah 50.4-9a
- Psalm 31.9-18
- Philippians 2.5-11
- Mark 11.1-11

**Sentence:** ‘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

**Collect:** 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.**

•Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 119.9-16; Hebrews 5.5-14; John 12.20-33

**Psalm 119.9-16**

**John 12.20-33**

- 9 How shall the young keep their path pure:  
unless they hold to your word?
- 10 **I have sought you with my whole heart:  
let me not stray from your commandments.**
- 11 I have treasured your words in my heart:  
that I might not sin against you.
- 12 **Blessed are you, Lord God:  
O teach me your statutes.**
- 13 With my lips I have been telling:  
all the judgements of your mouth;
- 14 **And I find more joy in the way of your commands:  
than in all manner of riches.**
- 15 I will meditate on your precepts:  
and give heed to your ways;
- 16 **For my delight is wholly in your statutes:  
and I will not forget your word.**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

**We give thanks for :**

- \* Our Church family and community
- \* All who help in the mission of the Church

**We pray for :**

- \* The Parishes of East Brisbane and Red Hill
- \* Epic Employment Service Incorporated
- \* The Springfield Anglican College

**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.

## WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?

**LENTEN STUDIES**—are being held at 10:30am Sundays in the crypt and 11am Fridays at St Barnabas.

**TAIZE IN LENT**—is being held every Friday during Lent—do come and join us.

**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.

**JUBILEE TERRACE PLAY-GROUP**—**Fridays 9:30-11:30am.** For more information contact Sarah Combe on ph: 0403 771 442 (leave a message if there is no answer).

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

**BOOK CLUB**—If you enjoy reading do come and join us. Our next meeting is set for 7:30pm Tuesday 10 April at the home of Sue Barker. For details talk to Ann Caston.

### DATES TO DIARY FOR MARCH:



**24 March am**—Working bee at the Church

**24 March 6:45pm for 7pm start**—Wine & Cheese Evening with The Rev'd Dr Jo Inkpin. Topic: Many Religions—One God? How do we live and love with people of different faith? For more details please see flyer.

### EASTER SERVICES—

**25 March—Palm Sunday**

**29 March—Maundy Thursday**

6pm—Meal  
7pm—Foot Washing  
7:30pm—Eucharist followed by vigil and compline

**30 March—Good Friday**

9am—Veneration of the Cross  
11am—Stations of the Cross—Ecumenical Service at St Finbarr's

**31 March—Holy Saturday**

7pm—Service of the Light

**1 April—Easter Sunday**

8:30am—Family Service and egg hunt

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY

#### How Funds 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).

**We are on the web!**

**stpaulsashgrove.org.au**

**ANGLICAN CHURCH  
OF AUSTRALIA**

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10 Jubilee Tce  
Ashgrove  
Queensland 4060  
Phone: 3366 2320

**OUR MISSION**

**WE PARTICIPATE IN  
GOD'S MISSION OF  
TRANSFORMING  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
COMMUNITIES,  
OFFERING MEANING  
FOR TODAY AND 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



**From pg 1:**

this is the law of life. In this vein, the dying he is about to face Jesus sees also as his glorification and the Father's. In the eyes of the Jews, especially of his enemies, his death will mean his defeat and their victory, but for Jesus and the Father, it will mark Jesus' vindication and glorification and the defeat of evil forces. As the first chapter of John foresees, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:5). Many of our saints and heroes go through the same experiences. In their struggle against evil forces—for heroes are always opposed by villains—the "hour" of giving it all will come. But they have been prepared enough inwardly, spiritually, to face the formidable enemy, and they give up their lives willingly for God. Running away from (the call of) the "hour" is no option; it is the decision of the fainthearted. And the fainthearted end up barren.

*365 Days with the Lord  
2018*