

## Vocations Sunday

### The Reverend Tiffany Sparks

‘For you have died and your life is hidden in Christ.’

What a scary thing to say. What does that even mean?

We know that we were known by God in the womb. We have responded to his voice on an unconscious level since the moment we came into existence. We have been known and loved from the moment where we were small, vulnerable and unable. When we were at the beginning of our journey on this mortal realm.

We were called to Baptism into the body of Christ. For many of us the call was too early to remember – but was a result of the Holy Spirit moving through the Faithful people of God. Most likely your parents who knew you were special and brought you forward to be Baptised into the same Baptism that Jesus himself went through. It is not our own personal Baptism. It is the same Baptism (the Baptism of Christ) that happens in different times and places around the world. Each of us has had the same Baptism into the Body of Christ. ‘For you have died and your life is hidden in Christ’.

You have been called by name and Baptised as equals. Neither Jew nor Greek, Slave nor Free, Male or Female, all are equal in the eyes of God. Outside these walls we might be teachers, executives, tradies, business owners, fry cooks, unemployed, through to the most wholesome of saints and penitent sinners. In this place – where the Body gathers as one – we are all equals, loved equally, wanted equally and given the same ‘grace’. No one gets double or half portions of God’s grace. All are called. Like the fool in the Gospel today realised only too late – possessions and grand designs are things of this world and do not represent who we are in Christ. What matters to us is the call that God puts on our lives and how to ‘live’ in that call.

So what is your call? Who are you in Christ? We spend so much time defining who we are in relation to our jobs and families – but who are you in Christ? Who is the real you that we spend our life time unveiling and understanding. The real you – that takes a life time to know. The real you – is who you are in Christ. Vocation is where you catch a glimpse of yourself in Christ – where you catch a glimpse of the joy and love that the ‘real you’ has to offer – the joy that God gives and you dedicate your life to pursuing that. This is the path of vocation. Living in the joy you have found in Christ - living in God and letting God work through you in creative and amazing ways. This might be through serving the

Church – not all are called to ordained ministry, but you might be called to serve the people of God in other ways by providing hospitality (morning teas, breakfasts), welcoming strangers. It might be through serving in the liturgy and being on the rosters. Your call from God might be in the secular world through mission or even mentioning God in the lunch room. Sometimes the smallest of conversations can impact people in profound ways. You may find that in these things you are spurring others on in their journey to God. Or your call might be to pray for all – to vigilantly cover all those whom you love, who are struggling and who are following the path that God laid before them in prayer.

All of these things are vocations. Working out where your joy and passion lies is responding to the gifts that God has given you. Your creativity, your skills, your joys and sorrows – all your experience are all wanted and are all gifts from God. The trick is when you use these gifts and skills like the fool – for your own desires and accumulation of wealth – without thought for the rest of the world. To quote Yoko Ono ‘When you die, you don’t take anything with you but your soul’ – who you are in God is all that remains. Everything else fades and ends. Who we are in God lives forever. It is the most precious thing we have – so why don’t we explore and discover who we are in Christ together and answer God’s

call. Follow the path that is before us – the path that calls our name. We have been called by name. Can you hear it? Will you follow?