



Welcome to
Eastern Hills Anglicans
22 January 2012
The Third Sunday
of the Season of Epiphany

"Come after me,
and I will make you fishers of men & women."

Welcome

All of us are aware with "BC" and "AD" as part of the way we designate a date, including the politically correct brigade who want to change it. "AD" is the abbreviation for Anno Domini, "Year of the Lord". However, it is interesting to note that this is in the singular in both languages. You see, our Lord does act each year, each moment of our lives and as he announces in the Gospel for today, "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand" – God is not restricted by our chronology and 2012 *is* the Lord's year.

ASH WEDNESDAY 9 March
Mass with the Imposition of Ashes
10am with hymns, 7.00pm

See Page 10 for Lent Study Programme

**See Page 10 for the Missing Bible Reading Fellowship
Study Notes**

NEXT SUNDAY: Return to the regular pattern of services
8.00am PowerPoint Mass
9.30am Sung Mass

NEXT SUNDAY: Bible & Brunch:
Introducing the Gospel of Mark
Sunday 29 January after the 9.30am Mass

In this liturgical year, most of the Sunday Gospel readings will come from Mark's Gospel.

Martyn's Mutterings – Teaching & Comments by Fr Martyn Natural Law & the Ten commandments

This is one of the topics for the Lent studies in March, so it is a bit of advertising if you like – a flavour of what is to come during the studies. One of the difficulties that face the Church and individual Christians is *relativism*. One way to put this is that that morality is relative to the custom and insights of a particular culture. As we live in a multi-cultural society, we tend to allow the free practice of an individual's cultural values as having equal value to my own – however, before long we can end up in trouble. Is it right that in some cultures, a young woman can be killed if she publically shames and disgraces her family's honour? We have a sense that this wrong and misguided – regardless of culture or religion. So when we react like that to these situations what is going on with our thinking.

The Christian Church affirms that truth is not *relative* it is an absolute. The Church also understands that there are principals which govern all people of every race, regardless of religion or culture and these we call *Natural Law*. A key definition is, Natural Law is known by reason (that it is therefore reasonable), it is the universal law of human nature for living well and it works for the greater good of human beings. So we have some basic principals which everyone understands without being a person of ant faith - for example, dishonouring parents, murder, theft, adultery and lying are universally considered bad things for family and society. Each of these basic principles can be expanded upon. Now there are some international covenants that are based on Natural Law, like civil and human rights. In our own country the principles of Natural Law become enshrined in our legislated laws. Murder is against Natural Law but it is defined and enforced by the Criminal Law of our nation. Even here, we need to be careful. Just because the Race Laws of Nazi Germany were formally enacted does not make it right – Natural Law judges it to be evil. The Church would understand that as God is our creator he has written into our common being and nature these principals, which govern all people. When Moses gave the People of Israel the Ten Commandments he was stating that it was God's will that the main principles of the Natural Law have also a spiritual dimension because it governs the way his people live out their relationship with Him. Murder is not just an un-lawful act it also has a spiritual consequence as well for God is the author life – it is his property.

Next Week's Readings:

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in Temple

This feast day falls on 2nd February, forty days after Christmas (we keep it on the nearest Sunday for convenience) and Saint Luke tells us that it was forty days after the birth of our Lord that he was presented in the Temple. so this feast day truly concludes our Christmas celebrations. The readings expand on the significance on this event

Malachi 3:1-4: The people wish the Lord to return to his Temple. Malachi says the Lord will return but be careful what you wish for – it may not be what you expect. Who would expect poor couple from Nazareth with a six week old child?

Hebrews 2:14-18: Paul's letter to the Hebrews has the profound understanding that if the whole of our life and existence is to be redeemed, then we need the Incarnate Lord who embraces every aspect of our existence and thus can be the one who represents us to the Creator and God the Father to us.

Luke 2:22-40: The Lord indeed returns to his Temple and only two pensioners to greet him! An ancient prophetess and a retired priest – but they recognise Him as their Lord and Saviour for Israel and the world

The Saga of the Missing Bible Reading Fellowship Notes

We should have received our Bible study notes by the end of December and it has been a bit of detective work to try to found out what has happened! A Christian publishing group called *Willow* in Sydney handles the BRF notes but another group called *Independent Distribution Solutions* in Geelong did the mail-out. IDS went broke late last year and out of business (when I telephoned their number it was a swimming pool supplier). At the same time, a Lutheran group in Adelaide, *MediaCom*, took over the distribution. They had our details, sent a parcel but nothing has arrived. Robyn Casey chased up three post offices and a mail distribution centre to see where they were. After all of this, *MediaCom*, very kindly has sent another lot of notes.!

2012 Lent Study Programme

Evangelium: A PowerPoint Presentation on the Christian Faith

The Elements of the Christian Life in the World.

When we live in a society, where "my opinion is as good as yours" it is hard to know what the standard we should live by is. Relativism denies that there is a truth, which should govern our lives. For Christians, Christ is our truth and our moral compass. This year's Lent study is an examination on how the Church understands the values that Christ gives us.

Week 1: Moral Actions

Week 2: Natural Law and the Ten Commandments

Week 3: The Beatitudes & God's Grace

Week 4: The Virtues:

The Great Virtues Faith, Hope & Love

**The Practical Virtues: Justice, Temperance, Fortitude
& Prudence**

Week 5: Christian Life in the World:

Personal Christian Life

Public Christian Life

Beginning 7.00pm Thursday 1 March to 29 March.

Please RSVP in the Folder

The Saint of the Week.

Saints Timothy & Titus, Companions of Saint Paul.

On the day following the Festival of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January the Anglican Church throughout the world remembers Timothy and Titus the loyal companions of the great Apostle. However, in Australia that clashes with Australia Day, so their festival day is transferred to either the 23 or 24 January.

Paul described these two as “partners and fellow-workers in God’s service”. There are two letters in the New Testament addressed to Timothy (Timothy I & II) and one to Titus. However, there is doubt whether Paul actually wrote these letters, as the style of writing is not his. However, whoever did write these documents was aware of the high opinion that the Apostolic Church held of these first bishops. Appropriately, the letters are about the responsibility of local bishop and the example he is to set before their community. These two companions are the third stage of the Church, beginning with Christ and, after the resurrection, the Apostles, followed by those whom they appoint to follow on from them. Church tradition remembers Timothy as the first bishop of Ephesus and Titus as the first bishop of Crete. In some parts of the Anglican Church a third companion, Silas, is also commemorated. One thing is for sure, Paul would not have been so effective if he did not have a loyal team of companions to support and care for him. That is true of the Church today – we are a community not a collection of like-minded individuals.

*Heavenly Father,
who sent your apostle Paul to preach the gospel,
and gave him Timothy, Titus & Silas
to be his companions in faith:
grant that our fellowship in the Holy Spirit
and aided by their prayers
we may bear witness to the name of Jesus,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



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Regular Sunday Services.

8am PowerPoint Mass. 9.30am Sung Mass

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Hall Bookings Go to our web page www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au

check the *Hall Bookings Calendar for availability and then*

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