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Working with St John's Bulimba

Two Parishes – One Mission

Community Information

Web Page Edition

5 December 2010

Second Sunday of Advent

(Beginning of a new worship year)

*John the Baptist appeared, preaching
in the desert of Judea*

Welcome

Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we continue with the seasonal themes of watchfulness and expectation for the coming of the Lord. In the Gospel we hear the spiritual giant John the Baptist who, in his day, demanded a spiritual renewal and reform of the nation for the coming of the Messiah. And no less today we are asked to listen to John as we too need to be attentive to the moments of grace which visit us. In this world we are to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (see the article on the next page). We become participants of the Age to Come.

The Next Sunday Bible Study: 11am 30 January

Bible passage: Luke 2:22-40. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.
the Last of the Infancy stories in the Gospels

Concert 'Make We Joy' 2pm Sunday 12 December 2 pm at St John's Cathedral

A concert of Christmas Classics and Community Carol singing
Jenny Woodward is comparing. In support of Cancer Council Queensland
Featuring Judith Henley (Soprano), Christopher Wrench (organ), Brisbane
Chorale, Hillbrook Singers. Seasonal refreshments to follow
Tickets \$25 adults, \$20 concession, \$10 FT students.

THIS WEEK First Meeting of the new Parish Council

7.30pm Tuesday 7 December at the home of Bernie & Robyn Casey, 628
D'Arcy Road, Carina

Teaching & Comments by Father Martyn 'Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell!'

Not exactly jingle bells for Christmastide! However, it was not that long ago when death, judgement, heaven and hell were the normal subject matter for preaching during Advent. Of course, this was because of the themes presented in the Sunday gospels. Last Sunday was the end of time and the destruction of Jerusalem and the return of the Lord as Judge. This week it is John the Baptist preaching to his generation and, again, the theme is judgement and to be ready and prepared.

But how do most people think of death, judgement, heaven and hell? Probably we put them in a sort of sequence. First we have this existence, the years before death, which call *temporal* from the Latin word *tempus* meaning *time*. This finishes with death and then we enter into an endless time of eternal life (and no one mention 'hell' word!). But is that right – is it even Christian? No. The Christian faith has nothing to do with eternal as a sequence after this existence, an event about which we can form no conception or idea at all. For the Christian, eternal life is a new quality of existence *and it can be already present in the midst of this earthly life*. For this is what the life, teaching and actions of Jesus is all about. Our knowledge of eternal life may be a fleeting in an imperfect and fragmentary fashion. But the dividing line between eternal and temporal life is not simply set down in a chronological order. Eternal life is not endless time *but another level of being*.

So we taste and experience eternal life in this life through our union and communion with our Lord. Through him we come face to face with God; through the contemplation of the living God. This is the moment we become spiritually alive and gives a firm basis to our soul. It is something like a great love, it can no longer be taken from us by any change or chance. Saint John's gospel confirms this, *"This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent,* (John 17:3). Wherever such an encounter takes place, there is eternal life. The dividing line between temporal life and eternal life runs right through the midst of our daily life.

**Readings for Next Week, 12 December
Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, Psalm 146, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Christmas Choir

As usual, we will form a special choir to sing at the Carols Service on 18 December. This choir helps enormously to bolster the singing in the service by adding harmony parts and descants as well as presenting some special Christmas works chosen just for this service.

If you would like to be part of this choir, please see Val after today's service. If you play an instrument and could help out in that way, Val would also love to hear from you.

Choir rehearsals: 6.30 to 7.30 pm on Thursdays (25 Nov to 16 Dec inclusive) at the Camp Hill Church.

Celebrating Christmas 2010

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER CHILDREN'S SERVICE

4.00pm 'The Story of Christmas'

*Help your children to know
the true joy and meaning of Christmas*

4.30pm Barbecue followed by

6.00pm Christmas Carols Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Family PowerPoint Mass, Camp Hill

8.30pm Traditional Christmas Night Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Christmas Family Mass, Camp Hill

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER AND SUNDAY 2 JANUARY

8am Said Mass with Sermon



Eastern Hills Anglicans

www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au

Regular Sunday Services

8am Family Service

Easy to follow PowerPoint Service with Crèche & Sunday School

9.30am Sung Eucharist

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Events & Promotions: Janelle Read: 3899 0967, e-mail janelle.read@yahoo.com.au
Wayne Elliott: *as above*, Robyn Casey, *as above*

Safe Ministry Committee: Robyn Casey, Wayne & Robyn Elliott (*see above*)
& Viv Cowie 3395-0087, e-mail viv.cowie@bigpond.com with Fr Martyn.

Hall Bookings Go to our web page www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au
check the *Hall Bookings Calendar for availability and then*
E-mail request to :Pat Bowman patricia.bowman@bigpond.com
or rector@easternhillsanglicans.com.au

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