



***Welcome to
Eastern Hills Anglicans
Community Information
3 July 2011***

***Fourteenth Ordinary Sunday
Also known as Third Sunday after Pentecost
Web Page Edition***

**"Come to me, all you who labour and are
burdened, and I will give you rest."**

Today's Celebration

The Word of God has been described as a "two-edged sword". Just as we get comfortable with one edge and feel we are fulfilling its requirements, it cuts us from another direction! Today's readings question our ability to be truly open to Christ's teaching.

TODAY'S MISSION GIVING: The Leichardt Parish

NEXT: Bible & Brunch: Abraham & St Paul

Sunday 28 August after the 9.30am Sung Mass. As Fr Martyn is away in July there will be no meeting for that month.

Walking Group: As Debbie is away in Fiji, no walking this month.

Winter Pie Drive

Pies, sausage rolls, lamingtons and other treats for sale. Order and payment by Sunday 17 July to Robyn Casey (3395 1757) or Janelle Read (3899 0967) for delivery on Friday 29 July to Janelle Read's home 45 Brentnall St Norman Park.

5c Fundraiser (or any loose change!)

Last week \$250.80 was banked from the collection of 5cents and loose change – many thanks.

Morningside Fair: Plastic Containers for Cake Stall - If you need plastic take-a-way food containers with lids to package foods for the stall please help yourself to the containers in the box in the crèche area.

Teaching & Comments by Father Martyn:

The Sign of the Twelve

Last week, on the 29th June, it was the feast of Ss Peter & Paul and today is the feast of St Thomas. Normally we would have had this Sunday to celebrate Peter & Paul but we have had such a run of feast days (Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi) due to the late date of Easter this year that we do need a break; otherwise, festivals cease to have any significance. However, this does not detract from the greatness of these three, chosen by Jesus to be his Apostles.

The first thing to note is the sign our Lord was giving when he chose his inner group. He was not gathering a vague mob, an unstructured group of friends – he was making a sign and declaration - *the Twelve*.

Every Jew saw their identity and origin in the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Each tribe was a descendant of one of the sons of the patriarch Israel (also known as Jacob). It was these tribes, under Moses, that received the Covenant and entered the Promised Land under Joshua, which made them the People of God. The trouble with this identity is that it had virtually ceased to exist as only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, along with Levi (the clergy) remained. The others were lost to history.

When our Lord chose the Twelve it was of decisive significance. Jesus is now the new Patriarch of a new Israel – a new people of God. There was a qualification for this position: to be a witness of the life and ministry of Jesus from its beginnings in Galilee as well as his death and resurrection. The Twelve were the living foundation, the embodiment of the faith and tradition of the Early Church. So important was this image of the Twelve, that when Judas betrayed his responsibility, Peter and the others chose Matthias to make up that number again. We see this is clearly understood by the image of the Heavenly Jerusalem in the book of Revelation 21.14: *“And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb”*.

Later, after the resurrection, the Twelve were called Apostles, meaning someone sent. There were other Apostles, who were not numbered with the Twelve, Paul and Barnabas for example. The Twelve however were a unique foundation – a sign of unity and guarantee of the truth of our faith. A sign of unity and diversity in christ

Saints of the Week 6 July: Thomas More, & John Fisher

These two saints are martyrs to the cruelty of Henry VIII who killed Protestants and Catholic alike, if they opposed his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and his takeover of the Church in England. Both were amongst the greatest scholars of Europe. Thomas More was born in 1478. He studied classics and law and at 23, he was called to the Bar. His honesty and integrity impressed Henry VIII and made Thomas his Chancellor. He supported the king in his reform of the clergy but disagreed over Henry's disputes with the Papacy, caused by the king's divorce to find another who would provide him with a son. Henry imprisoned Thomas for his defiance in the hope that he would change his mind. Thomas refused to take the oath, which declared the king to be the only protector and supreme head of the Church in England, and executed for treason on 6 July 1535, Thomas declared that he died the king's good servant but God's first.

John Fisher was More's close friend and ally. A brilliant academic, he had substantially reformed the life of the University of Cambridge, through the wealth and influence of his patron, Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII. He was made Bishop of Rochester and was a good pastor to his small diocese. As with Thomas, Henry VIII much admired him at first, but when he opposed the king their relationship deteriorated. Aged sixty-six and in poor health, he nevertheless endured the trauma of imprisonment in the Tower of London. He was executed just two weeks before Thomas on 22 July 1535. In 2012, the Pilgrimage led by Fr Martyn will visit both Rochester Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Readings for Next Sunday, 10 July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary time

Isaiah 55:10-11. In the faith of Israel, God's word is all-powerful. We see this in the story of creation; God speaks and it is. This scripture introduces the Gospel

Romans 8:18-23. Paul compares the difficulty of the present life as nothing compared to glory that awaits us and the whole created order.

Matthew 13:1-9. Our Lord is the Word of God. He speaks the words of eternal life. Yet this word is in simple images of ordinary everyday life: "A sower goes to sow". The parables of Jesus are about "in this example so it is in the Kingdom of Heaven."



www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au

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*
E-mail request to :Pat Bowman patricia.bowman@bigpond.com
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