



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

***Fifteenth Ordinary Sunday
Also known as Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Web Page Edition***

**"A sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seed fell
on the path, and birds came and ate it up."**

Today's Celebration: Jesus taught in parables, it is his unique style. The images come from everyday life but they contain the profound teaching of the Kingdom of God. For that reason these simple images can weigh and judge us and call us to respond to them.

From tomorrow, Fr Martyn and Catherine will be away until Monday 8 August. Fr Greg will be in charge of the Sunday Services.

The priests at Bulimba will be available for any pastoral emergencies but you will need to make contact with them via **Robyn Casey**, the Secretary of the Parish Council. Her phone number is on the back page of the pew sheets. **Val Burton** will look after the pew sheet and any notices for the Sunday need to be sent to her by Wednesday night. Val's e-mail is: valburton@optusnet.com.au When Fr Martyn returns he will be at the Southern Regional Clergy Conference, which he organises, from Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 August.

Winter Pie Drive

Next Sunday is the closing dates for the orders and payment for pies, sausage rolls and lamingtons.. Please give them 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.

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:
Christian Faith and the Culture We Live In.***

I remember a TV series that began around 1969 called, *Civilisation* presented by the great art historian Kenneth Clark. The first episode was called *The Skin of our Teeth*. What he was referring to was the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West and the invasion of the Huns, Goths, Vandals and Visigoths followed on by the mass of Viking attacks of pillaging and destruction. Western civilisation nearly did not survive – except for two facts – the Bishop of Rome and Benedictine monasteries. The Bishop of Rome and the Church was the only Western international organisation left standing. Benedictine monasteries were the last places of education and learning, preserving the learning of the Classical world, with men who could actually read and write. Many a great classic or work of mathematics survived as just one document in a remote monastic library. It was literally by the skin of our teeth.

A thousand years ago if someone was asked where they came from they would probably give the name of the local Diocese of the Bishop or the local Abbot's monastery, not their nationality! Of course, things gradually settled down and the Christian faith remoulded a savage world back into civilisation. Of course, it begs the question, "Why, when civilisation collapsed, did it survive in the Church?" The answer lies in the fact that the Christian faith is in itself a culture – a way of life. Because, the Christian faith tells a person who they are and, how they should live as a human being. It provides way of communal life and mutual support for brothers and sisters in Christ. It lifts a person to a vision of existence beyond the drudgery of daily life to the vision of God. It presents the true model of authentic life in Jesus Christ. The scriptures also connect the here and now to the people of faith in history – right back to Abraham. For people living in dark days and political anarchy it provided another worldview another standard by which to live by – a rule and standard by which they could measure the world they lived in. Another interesting point was that leadership in the Church was by merit and not by hereditary ancestry or assassination! It was also truly international. One great Archbishop of Canterbury was a Greek from what is now Eastern Turkey! – *Continued on the next page.*

Thankfully, we are not living in barbaric times in our nation – not quite as good for many other parts of the world. However, we do have a lesson from history. We may be indeed be thankful we live in Australia, yet our Christian faith – our Christian culture derived from Christ gives us a way of evaluating and measuring our national culture. Is it really working for the benefit of all people, respecting everyone’s human, civil and religious rights? Our faith tells us that Christ is the model of what it is truly to be human, rational, intelligent and spiritual beings. If this is so, every culture every nation needs this culture.

Parish Restaurant Evening: Saturday 20 August

Family and friends are welcome to join us for dinner **Ahmets Turkish Restaurant** 136 Oxford St Bulimba on Saturday 20th August at 7 pm.
RSVP sheet on table by RSVP by Sunday 7th August.

Saints of the Week 14 July: John Keble, Priest & Poet

It is hard for us to realise today the status of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the life of the Church of England prior to the 20th Century. Each of the colleges were organised and run by the Church. A person could only study at one these colleges if they were a member of the Church of England. All the clergy were trained at these places. Each university had its own member of parliament! Therefore, the influence of these places of learning was enormous in both State and Church. The status of each of the Heads of Colleges was of equal significance as were some of the Fellows of the colleges. Into this world, John Keble was born in 1792, a son of a priest. He went to Oxford like his father and showed brilliance as a scholar. He became a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, at the age of nineteen, a few years before his ordination. He won great praise for his collection of poems, *The Christian Year*, issued in 1827, and was elected Professor of Poetry in Oxford in 1831. He became the leader of the Catholic revival in the Church of England which known at the time as the Tractarian movement and later the Oxford movement. This group protested at the threats to the Church from liberal developments in both politics and theology. He was assisted by other university professors and tutors like John Newman and Edward Pusey. Keble nevertheless, did not seek to gain high position in the Church and in 1836 became a parish

priest near Winchester, a position he held until his death in 1866. He continued to write scholarly books and was praised for his character and spiritual counsel. Yet he is still best remembered for the sermon he preached in Oxford, considered by some the beginning of the Oxford Movement, delivered on 14th July 1833 – the day we commemorate him. The sermon was against the interference of the government in the life and order of the Church. Today, the Church of England is still part of the Establishment - but it has gained, through the influence Keble, the right of ordering its own life without the interference of Parliament. The pilgrimage to England next year will involve visits to sites associated with Keble, Pusey and Newman.

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

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19.

King Solomon supposedly wrote the Book of Wisdom, a monarch noted for being wise and intelligent. The author is supposed to be a king speaking to fellow kings. However, the author wrote in Greek not Hebrew and he quotes the Greek Old Testament. Therefore, the real author is probably a Jew living in the city of Alexandria after 320BC but before 20BC. The Early Church however incorporated this book as a valid scripture, part of the Canon of received texts. His writing gives us an insight on how Jewish people thought about the faith, just prior to the time of Jesus.

Romans 8:26-27.

We are continuing with a sequential reading of Paul's letter to the Romans. In this reading, we notice a key aspect of our Christian life; that the unity between the Lord and us is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit connects with our spirit and gives us the grace to grow and mature in our life in Christ – it is called “habitual grace” – the Holy Spirit has his habitation within us.

Matthew 13:24-30.

Another parable. This follows on from today's reading. This time it is the famous parable of the sower, an image known so well to the first listeners in Galilee.



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Regular Sunday Services.

8am PowerPoint Mass. 9.30am Sung Mass

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Events & Promotions: Janelle Read: 3899 0967, e-mail janellelead@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
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