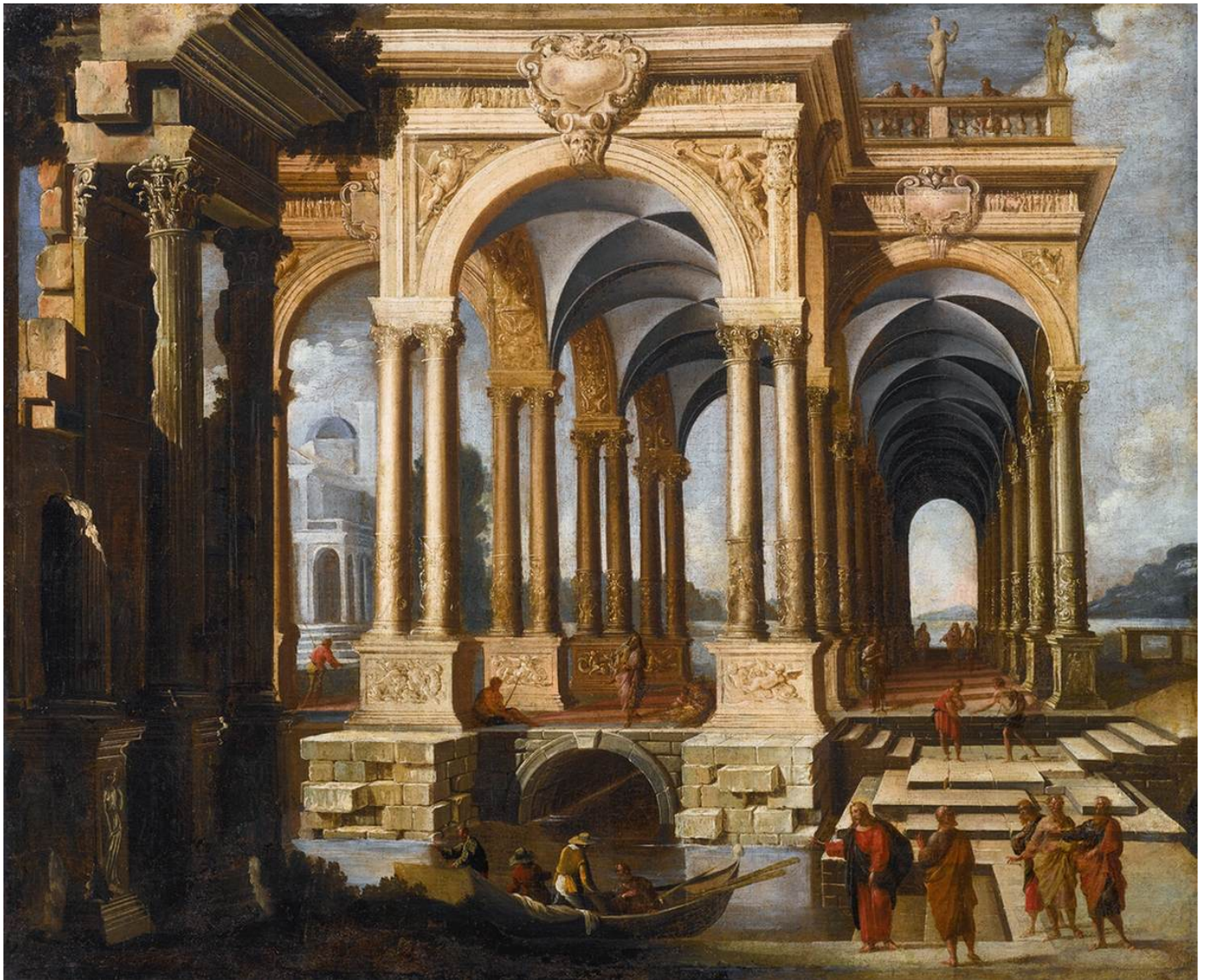




ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



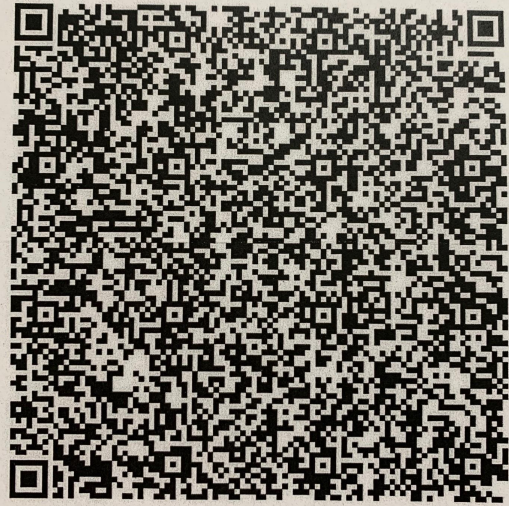
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

12th of September, 2021

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.



Location code NKH H8C

QR code for church

Usually services of worship are held each Sunday at 8am and 10am, and Wednesday at 7pm. All are welcome. Services are followed by times of fellowship over food and drinks to which everyone is also welcome.

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church and we will gladly welcome your contribution.

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.



@stjohnstoorak



Like us on
Facebook

Cover Image

François de Nome, *Architectural Capriccio with Christ and Disciples*
1625, Oil on canvas, 125 x 150 cm,
Private collection.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

PRELUDE

ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart. **Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION *pronounced by the celebrant*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the

Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O God, without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Proverbs 1.20-33 *Volunteer reader required.*

²⁰Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. ²¹At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²²'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? ²³Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, ²⁵and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, ²⁷when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, ³⁰would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, ³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. ³²For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.'

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM Psalm 19 *said together*

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
² One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.
³ There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;

- ⁴ Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
- ⁶ Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true,
and makes wise the simple.
- ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right,
and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,
and righteous every one.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey,
than the honey that drips from the comb.
- ¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
- ¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight:
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in
the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE SECOND READING James 2.18-26 *Read by Keith Beecher*

¹⁸But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your
faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. ¹⁹You

believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder. ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? ²¹Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. ²³Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? ²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL Mark 8.27-38

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ ²⁸And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ ²⁹He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can

they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON The Vicar, The Revd Dr. Peter French

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Led by Brenda Mouritz*

The Prayers end with the following

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

We are the body of Christ. His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

PARISH NOTICES *given by the Vicar*

OFFERTORY *Please do ensure you maintain your financial support of the church, especially during this period of lockdown. Donations can be made through our website www.saintjohnstoorak.org/support/*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia* 1995. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

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PARISH NOTICES

Continued Worship via Zoom

The Premier of Victoria announced on Wednesday 1 September that the current lockdown and its restrictions have been extended until 23 September. This continues to mean that we cannot reopen the church and gather together in person for services of prayer and worship. Services during this time will therefore continue to be held on Zoom. If you haven't joined one of these services, and you are able to, please do. They are a wonderful opportunity to be together (at least virtually), to pray, hear Scripture and even enjoy morning tea together afterward. Members of the congregation read the lessons and sometimes pray the intercessions. If you would like to help out with these contributions please advise the office via email. Our Director of Music plays a beautiful prelude and postlude and the clergy preach. This Sunday Peter is our preacher. Join the Zoom Service of Worship here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812816178?pwd=Ujh5TUgxa0V4Y1BIcjI1d2szRDJGdz09> Meeting ID: 818 1281 6178 Passcode: 630730

Please note: This Zoom link is the link for *each Sunday Service* throughout all of September.

Regarding Vaccinations

The following is a message from our Archbishop, The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier, about vaccinations, which was sent to all clergy on 1 September.

"We have no hesitation in urging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The evidence is mounting that vaccination is highly effective. Getting vaccinated is an act of love for your neighbour, and to provide safety in our community, churches and society. There is no credible argument against vaccination, and the risks of serious side effects from any of the vaccines available are extremely low. The Archbishop and bishops have all had a second dose, or have the second dose booked within the next few days." +Philip.

Our Vicar Peter and Assistant Curate Keiron are fully vaccinated and encourage everyone who feasibly can to be vaccinated as well. We are so looking forward to opening the church and seeing you all again when we can. Our prayers continue for your safety and wellbeing, and if there is anything we can do to support you, please do let us know.

Study Series 21 and 28 September, and 5 October via Zoom

Our very own ordinand and Lecturer in Theology at Trinity College Theological School, Dr. Scott Kirkland, will lead a three week course on the Christian understanding of God. "The doctrine of the Trinity is the way Christians talk about God, but it is simultaneously perhaps one of the most difficult puzzles in Christian theology. Over three sessions we will chart several paths through the history of the development of the doctrine, some of the controversies that have surrounded the doctrine, and, most importantly, the significance of the Trinity for thinking about the shape of Christian life in the contemporary world. More than just a confusing abstraction, the Trinity is the grammar of Christian existence."

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service via Zoom

Until the church can reopen again and we can celebrate eucharist on Wednesday evenings, the clergy will lead a service of prayer (compline) each Wednesday evening at 7pm via Zoom. Following the service you are welcome to stay around for a time of fellowship. These will commence this Wednesday 15 September. We will be using the Compline Service from the Church of England which can be found here: [Night Prayer](#).

This Zoom link will be used for each Wednesday throughout September:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83240468688?pwd=akM0UzllMDRxTGozcDZjUmVEd2Rpdz09> Meeting ID: 832 4046 8688 Passcode: 954020

Church Office Remains Closed

As per the Victorian Government's direction, the church office remains closed, with Sally, Milton and the clergy all working from home. Only Peter is allowed into the office, by virtue of living onsite. However, the office is still contactable via email enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org or by phone 0477 091 492. The office is open Monday to Thursday.

The Revd Keiron Jones

Our Assistant Curate, The Revd. Keiron Jones, has accepted the appointment to be Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. John's, Flinders and St. Mark's, Balnarring, commencing on The Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2022. A farewell Morning Tea for Keiron will be celebrated on Sunday December 19, following the 10am service. Keiron's final Sunday at St. John's will be January 2, 2022.

Dr Scott Kirkland

Following a successful meeting with the Archbishop last week, our Ordinand Dr Scott Kirkland will be ordained a Deacon on Saturday February 5, 2022. Congratulations Scott!

Be part of our Sunday Services

All our ministries are supported by volunteers. The Rosters for September and October are now available. If you are able to assist with any gaps please contact the parish office enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Archbishop's Annual Dinner, 7 October, 2021 Cancelled

The Annual Archbishop's Dinner, in support of Trinity College Theological School 'Building our Future' appeal has, unfortunately, been cancelled for 2021 due to the current lockdown and uncertainty about holding large events in the next couple of months. If you have purchased a ticket, you should have received an email inviting ticket-holders to donate the cost of the ticket to Trinity College Theological School; otherwise a refund will be made.

Prayers for Christian Unity

If eased restrictions permit, Prayers for Christian Unity will be held on Thursday 30 September, 10am at the Swedish Church. All welcome.

Prayer apps to help us pray

Along with prayer books and the Bible, a number of apps are available, which can help us maintain an active and engaged prayer life. Here are a few for you to consider:

[epray](#)

[Daily Prayer app and podcast](#)

[Pray as you go](#)

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to this week's Newstand is [here](#). The link to the September Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

Children's Ministry

Your children may enjoy activities offered on-line. 'Sermon4kids' offers weekly activities - sermons4kids@goto.sermons4kids.com. The Church of England has also produced a number of resources for families and children called 'Cheeky Pandas.' <https://cheekypandas.com/>

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Vicar Peter has Friday and our Assistant Curate Keiron Monday. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

Support St. John's

Your support of St. John's is greatly appreciated. The church often gets requests from members and friends about how best to support the church financially. With this in mind, donations can always be made directly to: St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia. Account Name is St. John's Anglican Church. BSB is 033 086. Account No. is 871931. For international transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.

What's Happening at St. John's?

For the latest details on what is planned in the parish this year, go to <https://www.saintjohnstoorak.org/community-events/>

17 October, 4pm Our Annual Pet Blessing Service, hopefully outside on the lawns!

28 October, 7pm All Souls' Day Service

31 October, 8am & 10am Dr. Scott Kirkland's Last Sunday at St. John's

7 November, 10am All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day Service

21 November, 11.30am Annual Meeting

28 November - 10 December 'Food for Friends,' our annual food drive for those in need in our community, alongside our friends of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement.

Sunday, 5 December A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, sung by The Choir of Trinity College, the University of Melbourne

Sunday 12 Monday or 13 December, 8pm Hosting The Swedish Church's annual St. Lucia service

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 6pm Children's Pageant

Friday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 11pm Midnight Mass with Melbourne University Choral Society under the direction of Andrew Wailes and with the Majestic Brass Ensemble.

Saturday, 25 December, Christmas Day Services at 8am and 10am

2022

Sundays 26 December, 2021 - 30 January, 2022 Summer Sundays! One Service at 10am.

Sunday 2 January, 2021 The Revd Keiron Jones' Last Sunday at St. John's. Keiron will preach and preside and the 10am service will be followed by a farewell.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania (Abp Maimo Mndolwa, Primate); The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bps Stephen Pickard, Carol Wagner, Clergy & People); Angliss Health Services; The Anglican Parish of Rowville and Ferntree Gully (Hilton Jordan, Luke Pedersen); Holy Trinity Lara 50th Anniversary Holy Communion Service – (Abp Philip Freier); Geelong Grammar Sunday service (Bp Kate Prowd); St Philip's Mt Waverley (Pastoral Visit, Bp Paul Barker).

For all those who lead us in the Anglican Church, especially: Our Primate The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Our Archbishop The Most Revd Philip Freier, and our Bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell.

For those who lead us in Government: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Katie Allen; Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews; Leader of the Opposition, Matthew Guy.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare.

For those celebrating birthdays: Trevor Craddock on Friday.

For those who have died, and the families who mourn them: Wilma Tucker; Darcy Smith.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Rosemary Griffith; Maggie Perkins; Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Audrey Leeton; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; Mary; Delta; Sue; Adrian Hall; Debra Moore; Samantha; Patricia Williams, and Anthea.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Teri Lawrence; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Marcia Larsson; Gordon Kennett; Anne Myers; Billee Edwards; Elizabeth Johnson.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Keith Vanderkelen; Bruce Gandy; Keela Hughes; David Mattingly; Robert Gardiner; Ian Holyman; Ethel Loughrey; Daphne Machin.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

This commentary presents one interpretation; others may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings. Text from New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV).

Proverbs 1:20-33

The “child” (v. 8) is advised to hear his “father’s instruction” and not to reject his “mother’s teaching”. He is warned: “if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, ‘Come with us ... let us wantonly ambush the innocent’” (v. 11), i.e. cause trouble for the good for no reason, the sinners do not heed warnings; in fact they “kill themselves” (v. 18) and “set an ambush – for their own lives”.

Now wisdom, personified as a woman (“she”, v. 20) makes her first appearance in the book and delivers warnings of her own. She speaks in public places where she can be heard – as did the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah – reaching ordinary people in the “street” and business people who work at the “city gates” (v. 21). She calls to the “simple” (v. 22, who don’t know better), to the “scoffers” (who take pleasure in cynicism) and to “fools” (who despise knowledge) – all of whom reject wisdom. If only they would change their ways, she would make God’s ways known to them (v. 23). But they have not (vv. 24-25), so (as they laugh at her), she will have the last laugh: at their downfall (“calamity”, v. 26), her mocking laughter will repay their obstinacy. Their downfall will be sudden and unpredictable, as is a Palestinian “storm” (v. 27) and “whirlwind”. Their call for help will come too late (v. 28). Then vv. 29-31: because they “hated knowledge” and chose not to hold God in awe, would not accept the advice of Lady Wisdom and “despised” her criticism of their ways, they will reap what they have sown: they will be punished by the very evil deeds they have committed (v. 32). On the other hand, those who heed Wisdom’s call will live in peace (“secure”, v. 33) and in comfort, “with no fear of misfortune” (Revised English Bible).

Psalms 19

To the Israelites, the “firmament” was a giant pudding bowl over the earth, beyond which was a hierarchy of “heavens”. God’s glory is told “day” (v. 2) and “night”, yet silently (v. 3a), to all people. He has created the sun as his agent (v. 4); it rises early in the morning, as does the “bridegroom” from his night’s rest, traverses from one edge of the heavens to the other, making God’s presence known with its “heat” (v. 6). Vv. 7-9 present the wonders of the law, as an expression of God’s will for Israel. Here we find synonyms for the Law, characteristics of it, and its benefits for humankind, e.g. it *makes* ‘wise the simple’, those immature in understanding and judgement. It warns the psalmist (“servant”, v. 11). If he accidentally break it (“hidden faults”, v. 12), may God forgive him. May God protect him from those who intentionally go against God’s ways (“the insolent”, v. 13), lest he be influenced into sinning intentionally (“great transgression”). May his words and his thoughts be acceptable to God, who restores him to godliness (v. 14).

James 2:18-26 - commentary not included in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus travels north from the Sea of Galilee to the villages around Caesarea Philippi, a prominent pagan town. He asks: *who does popular opinion say I am?* There are various opinions, but the Messiah is not one of them (v. 28). Now he asks the disciples: “who do you say ... I am?” (v. 29). Peter’s answer, for the disciples, is pious, but misleading and incomplete. Jews expected the Messiah to come in power, to free them from Roman domination, but they did not expect the Messiah to suffer (v. 31). (Were it to be widely known that he is the Messiah, his time on earth might end before he has done all that he has come to do.) This is the first prediction of Jesus’ Passion. Jesus “must” suffer, for it is in God’s plan. Jesus’ mission is now stated completely, so he speaks about it “openly” (v. 32). He rebukes Peter for his shallowness, seeing his reply as inspired by the devil, as not being godly (v. 33).

What will happen to Jesus has implications for those who follow him: (1) we must cast aside self-centeredness (“deny themselves”, v. 34) and submit to divine authority (as a prisoner submitted to Roman authority when he carried the cross-arm to his execution); (2) we must be willing to die for the cause – real life, true self, comes from God (vv. 35-37); and (3) we should not be ashamed of the way he is treated and his message in this wayward (“adulterous”, v. 38) world; for such an attitude will detract from Christ’s glory, his godly show of power, when he comes as judge at the end of the era.

THIS SUNDAY

10am Service

First Reading: Proverbs 1.20-33, volunteer reader required

Second reading: James 2.18-26, read by Keith Beecher

Gospel Reading: Mark 8.27-38

Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz

Celebrant: The Revd Keiron Jones

Preacher: The Revd Dr. Peter French



Vicar The Reverend Dr Peter French
vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens Mrs Amanda Bagot,
Mrs Stella Jongebreur,
Mr Anthony Mannering

Parish Council

Mr Dougal Colhoun, Mr Craig Cooper,
Mrs Vivienne Brown, Ms Diana Dunlop,
Dr Jessica Hall, Mrs Claire Morgan,
Mr Harrison Young

Assistant Curate The Revd Keiron Jones
curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

Director of Music/Organist
Mr Christopher Cook
acccook2001@yahoo.com.au

Ordinand
Dr. Scott Kirkland

Parish Administrator/Child Safe Compliance Mrs Sally Robertson
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Child Safe Officer Mrs Vivienne Brown

Family Safety Officer
The Revd Keiron Jones

Sunday School Teachers Mr Clive Wright,
Ms Shierly & Miss Jo-Jo Patterson

Archivist Professor Geoff Quail OAM
geoffrey.quail@monash.edu

NEXT SUNDAY, 19th September

10am Service

First Reading: Proverbs 31.10-31, read by Sam Shepherd/Rex Williams

Second reading: James 3.1-12, read by Stella Jongebreur

Gospel Reading: Mark 9.30-37

Intercessor: John Horan

Celebrant: The Revd Dr. Peter French

Preacher: The Revd Keiron Jones