

Nothing can be more important than loving God above all else and loving others as he loves us. Let this truth transform your mind and heart, purify your intentions and actions, and give you a sense of real priorities in whatever you do.

'St Paul once said, that whatever I do without love is absolutely worthless. Look at the quality of your love, and ask for a truly loving heart.

The Lord be with you.

Prayer Points

Thanksgiving

- That we can cast ALL our cares on God.
- For the continuing relaxation of restrictions.

Petitions

- Peter, Summer, Sylvia, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Julia & John, Bernie, June and Michael and their families.
- Those affected by COVID 19 and all those struggling with current regulations.
- For our Federal and State leaders and healthcare professionals

The Lighter Side of Life



Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter

21st Sunday after Pentecost

25th October, 2020

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**Anglican Parish of the
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

What joy! I can come and visit you again! We still cannot use our church buildings but at least the visitation restrictions have been eased. I will begin to make my way around to you all over the next couple of weeks.

Throughout the pandemic I have encouraged you to stay positive and trusting in our good God's purposes. One way to do that is to appreciate the little things we enjoy. I had to have a laugh to myself as last Sunday, for me, it was the unusual pleasure of being able to watch the Bathurst 1000 from start to finish. Something I have not been able to do for 40 years as it is always on a Sunday! It might seem silly to you, but its these little blessings we can miss when we take our eyes off Jesus and stay focused on the stresses around us. For Kingsley it was watching the Cats win the preliminary final on his Birthday! Happy Birthday Kingsley. How did God bless you this week? Make sure you thank him for it.

It is impossible to forecast what the weather is going to do. When the bureau says its going to rain, its fine and vice versa, so I thought if you would like to join me, outside St Aidan's on Sunday Nov 1st for our All Saints and All Souls service, we can meet at 10am, weather permitting. I figure if the weather is awful you can simply not turn up! You will need to let me know if you are planning on coming as we will be limited to 20 people at the maximum.
May the Lord bless you with peace and joy this week.
Jenny



Prayer of the Week

O God, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading. Matthew 22.34-46

Reflection

In this week's Gospel we see the Jewish religious trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. There are mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem, and the conflict here begun in verse 16 when the Pharisees asked a question about taxes. When they were unable to trip him up, the Sadducees had a go, and now we see a lone Pharisee asking Jesus about the greatest of the commandments.

The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbour. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour

What is sad about this reading is the very Word of God, Jesus, was there before them, wanting to give them his love, but they were just interested in scoring points against him and against each other. It is just possible that this same Word of God is standing right in front of us in our daily life and we are missing him because we are caught up in some silly games of our own, wanting God to work according to our desires rather than from his all embracing love.

The message of Jesus is all-embracing and covers all our relationships, both the close relationships of marriage, family and friendship, as well as the call to love the wider world, particularly where the needs are great.