

## Prayer Points

### Thanksgiving

- God's provision during COVID19 restrictions.

### Petitions

- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Samantha and Glen and their families
- Those affected by COVID 19, especially the sick and dying.

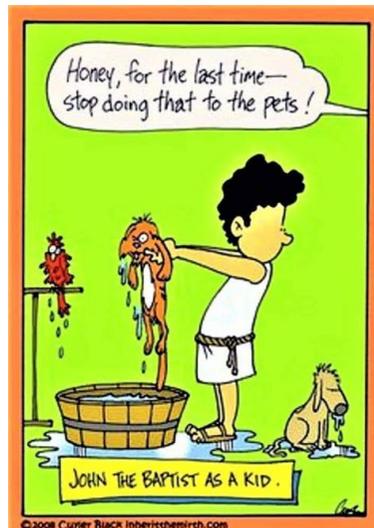


## Up Coming Events

- Requiem Mass for Jean Ash– 10am Wednesday 1st July
- Services—Small services are resuming at the usual times in all centres.
- Bible Study— Wednesdays, 11am, Apollo Bay
- Parish Council– Monday 13th July, 1 pm.

## The Lighter Side of Life

Wednesday was the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. I hope this gives you a giggle!



## *Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter*

### **4th Sunday after Pentecost**

28th June, 2020

**Priest in Charge — Rev'd Jenny Brandon**

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**Anglican Parish of the  
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

We've all had a tough time of it lately, especially with the passing of Geoff and Jean, but what has been wonderful is the resilience and faith I have seen exercised by you all. Distressed as we have been, people have walked boldly in the Lord's strength. It is a wonderful thing to witness and of great encouragement.

I have decided to hold a requiem mass for Jean on Wednesday the 1st of July at 10am. This is primarily for the parish family and friends, because Covid restrictions will prevent most from attending the actual funeral. Please let me know if you wish to attend because seats will be limited.

On a brighter note, Julie Towers celebrated her birthday this week and it is Chelsea Davidson's birthday today, so happy birthday girls. We wish you every blessing for the year ahead.

Blessings Jenny.



## Prayer of the Week

O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name will not lose their reward:  
open our hearts to the needs of your children,  
and in all things make us obedient to your will,  
so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,  
eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings. **Romans 6:12-23** and **Matthew 10:40-42**

## Reflection

This weeks reading from Romans builds on what we looked at last week, That is we are now freed from sin, belong to God and should be who we are, Children of God.

Paul recognizes that the power of sin is still active in the world of the believers, so that Christians are confronted with the real peril of

falling back into following the baser instincts of human existence rather than God's will and leadership. In one sense Paul is telling the Romans that God has already rescued the Christians out of the mud and cleaned them off through the bath of baptism, so stay out of the mud, to resist any subsequent urge to return to the mud-bath from which they have already been rescued.

More importantly, however, Paul's teaches that having been "brought from death to life," the Christians have the opportunity to give themselves to God and to live according to God's righteousness.

IN verse 14 Paul is saying there are two ways of living. In one way of there is freedom through grace, God's power at work liberating the believers from their involvements with sin; whereas in another way of forming life, the attempt to live life rightly through the observance of the law, one is left essentially on one's own without God's liberating power. For as Paul the law (holy, just, and good as it is) is impotent to resolve the dilemma humanity faces in relation to sin, while grace is God's power per se at work doing for the Christians what they cannot do for themselves.

Paul's point is that Sin uses the law to deceive humanity into believing that life is manageable essentially on one's own, but we all know the inadequacy of human efforts at godliness which show the need for the power and sufficiency of grace to live obediently to God's righteousness.

Paul goes on to encourage the Romans, and us, to devote themselves to God and God's work in the world so that they may continue to grow in God's grace.

How often do we try to live good lives in our own strength, or long to grow in righteousness in our lives. We can't do either on our own, and this passage reminds us that we are still vulnerable to sin, but the good news is that God has freed us from the realm of sin as the foundational reality of our lives (verse 22), and God has given us God's free gift of eternal life in Christ (verse 23). And that remains an ancient message that is new every day. And it remains a message that people still find hard to hear. But it remains what we are called to proclaim.

The Lord be with you.