

# Anglican Parish of Toowong

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

At Toowong we are building an inclusive, Christ centred faith community that seeks truth, works for peace and justice, is generous and non-judgemental.

## Hymns

Entrance Hymn:	745	Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
Gradual Hymn:	699	A new commandment I give unto you
Offertory Hymn:	517	Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus
Communion Hymn:	217	Love divine, all loves excelling
Post Communion Hymn:	152	Joyful, joyful, we adore you

## Sentence of Scripture

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (1John 4:10-11)

## Prayers of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Parish Growth

**God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness. Help our parish grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Acts 8:26-40

*Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## Psalm 22: 26-32

*Thanks be to God who gives us the victory*

From you springs my praise in the great congregation: I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied: and those who seek the Lord shall praise him may their hearts rejoice for ever!

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord: and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he shall be ruler over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage: or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

But he has saved my life for himself: and my posterity shall serve him.

This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation: and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

### **1 John 4: 7-21**

#### *God Is Love*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### **John 15: 1-8**

#### *Jesus the True Vine*

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### **The Gospel Prayer**

(John 15:1-8)

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth; you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are; through Jesus Christ, the true vine Amen.

### **Prayer of the Week**

Saving God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Parish Prayer**

Almighty and ever-living God, we ask for your guidance as we minister in the name of your Son. Be with us as we strive to be a faithful community that is loving, compassionate, generous and inclusive. May we always be faithful in our witness to the resurrection of Jesus, and like Thomas proclaim Him to be our Lord and God. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

## **Consider this**

As we follow Jesus, we go with him to the synagogue to hear his teaching as he reveals wisdom and authority. We see Jesus answer cries to be made whole as unclean spirits depart obeying the Holy One of God. We walk with Jesus and continue to grow in knowledge that we may speak the words of God.

- Lord, help us to move beyond words to actions. Amen.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in South Sudan.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pray for Parish Growth!*

Peace in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, West Bank, Israel and South Sudan; those affected by natural disasters; reconciliation with our first nations people. Archbishop Jeremy Greaves and Bishop John Roundhill, the Anglican Communion and Christian Unity. For refugees & asylum seekers. Members of our Defence Force, the Police and Emergency Services.

**Sick:** Fr Shane Hubner (St Lucia Parish), Fr Peter Jeffery (Bardon Parish), Sophia Trott, Ben Ferguson, Sue Walker, Alan Arnold.

## **This Week**

### **Sunday 28 April**

**8.30am Sung Eucharist** – ANZAC Commemoration

10.00am Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 2 May

10.00am Book Shop is open until 2.30pm

10.30am **Eucharist** at St John's Home

7.15pm Choir Practice

Friday 3 May

12.00pm **Eucharist** – St Philip and St Jude

12.00pm Open Door Sandwich Club

### **Sunday 5 May**

**8.30am Sung Eucharist** – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Baptism of Lily Nihinsa Rajapakshe

9.30am Morning Tea

10.15am Understanding the Bible

## **Coming Events**

Sunday 5 May

8.30am Baptism and Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 7 May

6.30pm Men's Dinner

**Thursday 20 June**

**10.00am The Chosen Session Three**

*Sunday 22 or 29 September TBC 3.00pm Amadeus Orchestra Concert*

## **Parish Contacts`**

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**Offerings** can be made by direct debit to:

Account Name - Toowong Anglican Parish

Account Number - 00004710

BSB - 704 901

Reference – Offering

## **Anglican Parish of Toowong**

Fr Tom Sullivan is available each week from Thursday to Sunday.

**Understanding the Bible Series:** 10.15am on the first Sunday each month.

**St John's Home:** Eucharist on the first Thursday each month at 10.30am.

**Weekday Service:** Eucharist at 12.00pm every Friday except Public Holidays.

**Men's Dinner:** 6.30pm on the first Tuesday each month except January.

**Parish Book Shop:** 10.00am to 2.30pm each Thursday.

**Choir Practice:** 7.15pm Thursday

**Open Door Sandwich Club:** 12.00pm on the first Friday each month except January.

The office email will be checked Thursday to Sunday.

Parish Activities and Events are advertised on the Parish Website and Facebook page as well as in the weekly email notice.



Our Scheme ID number allows the Parish to be paid directly into our account whenever you redeem drink containers (not white milk containers) at a refund point. Or place clean bottles and cans, **tops removed**, in the bins provided in the Function Room or near the lift in the car park. Drink container include: soft drink, beer, wine, & spirits bottles and cans, as well as flavoured milk and cardboard drink containers.

You can take your bottles and cans directly to a Containers for Change depot and give them the Scheme ID Number and the money will be transferred to the parish account.

The Parish Scheme ID number is: **C10281626**

