



# Worshipping & Praying Together as a community dispersed

*during the week beginning  
Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September*

*The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## **The Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.**

The worshipping communities of the Cathedral and St Peter's Hamilton.

This past week, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the church remembered and gave thanks for the witness of the New Guinea Martyrs. You can read more about them in Dean Katherine's "Reflection on a Page' at the end of this resource.

The experience of the martyrs reminds us of perseverance and of lived faithfulness, stemming from their call, as Paul reminds his listeners in the church in Rome, to "Love your neighbour as yourself."

We might rankle at all the 'new' ways that COVID-19 has brought: using hand sanitiser; checking in and registering our details when we visit somewhere; wearing a face mask; keeping our physical distance – yet all of these changes, which may make us feel uncertain, are an expression of our love for our neighbour.

Paul writes: "Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." The challenge for us is to view our feelings of dis-ease through the lens of God's love, and thus see opportunity rather than restriction.

**Our Services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are streamed every day and Holy Communion at the Cathedral is streamed on Sundays and Wednesdays:**

**You Tube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXyas2uhJUNOnDetOpPdUOg>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchcathedralnewcastle/>

**Eucharists are offered at Christ Church Cathedral on Sundays at 8.00am and 11.00am and Monday to Friday at 8.30am (following Morning Prayer), and at St Peter's Hamilton at 11.00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

**Families@Five Service at the Cathedral is on the first Saturday of the month.**

**You Tube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYF6oyfKg3zYHolmWjts2JA>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCathedralFamilies/>

**Parish Council are seeking additional volunteers to assist with sides people duties and cleaning in the church after our services. Please contact the Parish Office on 4929 2052.**

***Please do not hesitate to contact Dean Katherine or Reverend Angela if you have any concerns at this time and if you would like for us to visit you at home.***

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### **Exodus 12:1-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

### **Psalm 149**

1 O praise the Lord and sing to the Lord a new song:

O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:

let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

3 Let them praise him in the dance:

let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.

4 For the Lord takes delight in his people:

he adorns the meek with his salvation.

5 Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:

let them sing for joy upon their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:

and a two-edged sword in their hands,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations:

and chastisement upon the peoples,

8 To bind their kings in chains:  
and their nobles with fetters of iron,  
9 To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:  
such honour belongs to all his faithful servants  
Praise the Lord.

### ***Romans 13:1-10***

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them — taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

### ***Matthew 18:10-20***

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

## Reflection on a page by *The Very Reverend Katherine Bowyer*.

Below is a paraphrase of a sermon I preached last year on the New Guinea Martyrs. (You can hear the full sermon here – scroll to find 1 September 2019: <http://www.newcastlecathedral.org.au/downloads/>.)

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”. So wrote Tertullian, around 197 AD, arguing that persecution, rather than literally killing the church, made the church stronger. On January 31 1942, Bishop Philip Strong in a radio broadcast to his staff in Papua New Guinea, said in part: “I have, from the first, felt that we must endeavour to carry on our work in all circumstances, no matter what the cost may ultimately be to any of us individually. God expects this of us. The Church at home, which sent us out, expects this of us. The Universal Church expects it. The tradition and history of missions requires it of us. Missionaries who have been faithful to the uttermost and are now at rest are surely expecting it of us. The people whom we serve expect it of us. Our own consciences expect it of us. We could never hold up our faces again if, for our own safety, we all forsook Him and fled when the shadows of the Passion began to gather round Him in His Spiritual and Mystical Body, the Church in Papua... I cannot guarantee that all will be well—that we shall all come through unscathed. One thing only I can guarantee is that, if we do not forsake Christ here in Papua in His Body, the Church, He will not forsake us.... Let us trust and not be afraid.”

Bishop Strong’s message was powerful, and so was the commitment of the missionaries. In August 1942, eleven missionaries were killed, including Sister May Hayman and Mavis Parkinson, along with Lucian Tapiedi and Leslie Gariadi, Papuan Evangelists.

May Hayman and another of the martyrs, Vivian Redlich, had announced their engagement not long before the Japanese invasion. “May came from Adelaide but had worked as a nurse in hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne, Dubbo and Canberra. She was immensely happy in her work and in her life at Gona.” Mavis Parkinson was “born in Ipswich, Queensland and attended St Paul’s parish church. One of the clergy there said of her ‘I believe she had a vision which gave her inspiration; there was a power in her life’. She worked in an office, but when she felt called to mission service, she retrained as a teacher.” Both were executed near present day Poppendetta in August 1942.<sup>1</sup>

Their lives are the lives of stories like ours: nurse, office worker, teacher. They probably would not have counted their faith as extraordinary, nor their actions as thus either. As the priest Vivian Redlich wrote to his father, “I’m trying to stick whatever happens. If I don’t come out of it just rest content that I’ve tried to do my job faithfully.”

The call to faithfulness: it may not seem exciting, it may not seem glamorous, it may not seem like we’re making a difference, and yet the call to faithfulness transforms lives, bears witness, and, in the end, is what we are called to do.

A wise priest once told me the story, that early in his ministry he felt disillusioned. Revival hadn’t broken out, people were not flooding back to the church, change seemed imperceptible. His bishop listened, attentively. And when the priest had finished speaking, the Bishop quietly asked, “But have you been faithful? Have you prayed? Have you read the Scriptures? Have you administered the Sacraments? Have you loved God, and loved your neighbour as yourself? For God has not called you to be successful. God has called you to be faithful – nothing more, nothing less. Be faithful, and trust God to look after the rest.” So let us be faithful, and, as Bishop Strong said, “trust, and not be afraid.” For God will look after the rest.

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<sup>1</sup> Bride, Margaret, *I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope*, ABM.

## **Readings for next week – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Exodus 14: 19-31**

**Psalm 114**

**Romans 14: 1-14**

**Matthew 18: 21-35**



### **Prayers for use during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and  
distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and  
fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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