

**SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH  
PARISH OF BURNLEY**



## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.*

Dear parishioners and friends, last week we observed The Baptism of our Lord. The next day I received from the St Peter's Bookroom a gem of resources in our Diocese some thoughts on Baptism. Here they are for your reflection. Go to the bookroom web site for the full documents

"There are so many good poems, personal reflections and theological explanations about the meaning and value of Baptism. This Christian rite is more than just an entry card into the Church; it is a sacramental sign of a covenant and most importantly the establishment of a new inner relationship between God and the baptised.

Rowan Williams in 'Being Christian' asserts that Baptism involves a restoration, a 'being with Jesus'

*"in the depths", in the depths of human need' and a re-taking back into 'the depth of God's love.'* And by this rite 'Jesus....restores humanity "from within", (Jesus) has come down into the chaos of our human world....to where things are shapeless and meaningless, in a state of vulnerability and unprotectedness....'

(pp. 3-4) Ultimately the rite of Baptism '*brings us to a new level of solidarity with other people.*' (p 6)

Andrew McGowan, in his contemplation of this passage from Matthew, focuses on the word 'righteousness.' For him the meaning of the word 'righteousness' is shown by Jesus' act of submission to be baptised by John. Here, by requesting John baptise him and not the reverse, Jesus subverts the expectation that he has arrived in order to fulfil a role and add more rules. By his action Jesus is revealing the mercy of God. For this is a relationship founded on love. '*Righteousness is God's remarkable saving love, above all, and for human beings that means our own righteousness is in keeping with that love.*' Hope is born from this understanding of righteousness, and of paramount importance in the reign of heaven. This makes God's saving grace something much bigger than simply sticking to the rules. It also means that '*Jesus teaches that the righteousness that characterizes the reign of heaven requires more of its members, rather than less.*"

Fr. Ray

## **INTROIT HYMN, AM 107 The sinless one to Jordan came**

**Sentence.** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY.** Almighty God, whose son, our saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illuminated by your word and sacraments, shine with radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and fore ever. **Amen**

## **1ST READING, Isaiah 49.1-7**

### **The Servant's Mission**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'<sup>4</sup>But I said, 'I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God.' And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup>he says, It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 40. 1-14

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Psalm 40 Response O Lord do not withhold your mercy, let your steadfast love preserve me

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord;  
    he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the desolate pit,\*  
    out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
    making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
    a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,  
    and put their trust in the Lord.

R

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who make  
    the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
    to those who go astray after false gods.

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
    your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;  
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
    they would be more than can be counted.

R

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
    but you have given me an open ear.\*

Burnt-offering and sin-offering  
    you have not required.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Here I am;  
    in the scroll of the book it is written of me.\*

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God;  
    your law is within my heart.'

R

<sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance  
    in the great congregation;  
see, I have not restrained my lips,

as you know, O Lord.

<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation. R

<sup>11</sup> Do not, O Lord, withhold  
your mercy from me;  
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
keep me safe for ever.

<sup>12</sup> For evils have encompassed me  
without number;  
my iniquities have overtaken me,  
until I cannot see;  
they are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails me.

R

<sup>13</sup> Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

<sup>14</sup> Let all those be put to shame and confusion  
who seek to snatch away my life;  
let those be turned back and brought to dishonour  
who desire my hurt.

R

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## **SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1.1-9**

On Divisions in the Corinthian Church

**3** And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, **3** for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling<sup>[a]</sup> among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? **4** For when one

says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

**5** What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **8** The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. **9** For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

**Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

A reading from the Gospel according to John 1.29-42

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to

Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

For the Gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Intercessions**

*FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD:* Peace in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo Venezuela and Ukraine for the Jewish community for the Richmond Churches Food and for all organizations that provide safety and relief during this summer season and all those in need.

*FOR THE SICK, RECOVERING, AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE* Bruce, Sharon, Carol, Jack, Nanette and Liam, Craig, Helen,

*FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:*

*FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS,* Andy Blair, Simon Mckenzie Coulter, Hugh Bond, Ronald Brown, Elaine Salvin, John Wilson, Jean Coish, Alan Patton, James Rigneand and Jamess Pollard,

**Offertory Hymn: AM 243 Come Holy Spirit come**

**Recessional Hymn: AM 108 When Jesus came to Jordan**

## **Rosters**

### **18<sup>th</sup> January**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Kathy Kozowski
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Kim Ricketts
<b>Intercessor</b>	Martyn Smith
<b>Euch. Assist</b>	Megan Harrison
<b>Welcomers</b>	Anne Czech,
<b>Hospitality</b>	Michael McGirr,

### **25<sup>th</sup> January**

Martyn Smith
Prue Borthwick
Michael McGirr
Jonathn Harrison
Megan Harrison
Kim Ricketts
Martyn Smith, Helen McDonald
Jenny Scott

Centenary Planning meeting 11.30am, today 18<sup>th</sup> January after Morning tea

Thursday 10am Eucharist

Back to Church Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> January including pub lunch. Please put you name on the list today so we can book. Church continues post holidays