

TRINITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Pentecost 16 - Fantasies and Realities and the Model of a Child

The Gospel at Mark 7:30-37 speaks of Jesus' disciples arguing about which one was the greatest among them. He repudiates this as a false way of looking at life. But some of our fantasies about power and achievement are wonderful. They are compensations for unfulfilled yearnings. They are not real, but they spur us on to greater achievements. If we take them literally, we are bound for a mental institution. But if we recognise them as containing signs of our own hopes and dreams, then they may be accurate sketches of what constitutes our real aspirations. They may also enshrine elements that are true and will really happen if we are prepared to take them up from where they 'sit' in our activated memory. Fantasies may project very precise aspects of what we are capable of achieving.

Last year I was at Arakkonam, south of Bangalore in Tamil Nadu and one of the earth's hot places. An army officer came with his wife to my dinghy hotel and they asked that I should pray for them to have a child. They had been married for 7 years and were given little hope of a child. It was obviously a huge issue in their

lives. This week an email came from Pastor Dhanaraj who had brought them to see me. He said that they had been to see him and the miracle was that they had a lovely baby with them. I can imagine the joy on their faces. They would be praising God in English and their own sweet language, Tamil. We initiate and God responds. We may not like the result, but God does respond.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35b). The example is that of a child. Our linear western minds often miss the significance of biblical images. Jesus takes a child in his arms and declares that a welcome given to a child is a welcome given to him and to his Heavenly Father. A tiny blob of life called a “joey” emerges from mother kangaroo, climbs up her fur into her pouch and eventually fastens on her teat and grows there until the pouch is full and baby can emerge to hop and hop. Even that tiny blob of life is more resilient than a new-born human. The care given to a child is the measure of God's welcome to us. “Less is more”, not only in Meiss'





austere architecture, but in the eyes of the Father. Human achievement apparently doesn't rate high on the heavenly hit parade. Transparency towards life, openness, lack of pretension, service of humanity and a realization that we are transient specks in the corridors of time, now those are in the top ten!

Faith, surely! A heart for God, absolutely! Do your best in everything and rejoice if you achieve. But let us not imagine that achievement is a ticket to heaven or a passport to happiness. Deep down in us is the child that still travels in the halls of our memory and reminds us of our original fears and our original dreams. The counter-image of the child is an eastern snapshot of fragility and dependence at our most vulnerable and threatened moments. Someone who can hug the child in you wears a crown of gold with the word "LOVE" in capital letters on it. Now that's compassion, love and healing wrapped up in a hug! We all begin life looking for light and air, and we all respond to trust people who show us love. The news has horrendous examples of behaviour that devastates children and robs them of their childhood: a terrible crime. Remember that when you hold up a child as Jesus did, then you are not far from the heart of God. All Jesus' examples of children are about embracing God and being embraced by the Heart of Hearts. Does that require awareness of this significance and faith in God? Yes, but as at Bethlehem, the model of human potential linked to God is on show for all the world to see. Jesus' teaching about "little children" relates to his own childhood. Ours too!

Bishop Arthur Jones

***Forewarned is
forearmed . . .***

A couple of our parishioners lost their wallets and cell phone due to theft, during Communion last Sunday. The theft went undetected until much later, because the parishioners' handbags remained zipped up and nothing unusual was noted upon their return to their pew; except for the fact that a woman seated beside them left the church during Holy Communion. Our sexton noted that last Sunday was the third consecutive Sunday that the individual attended service in our church.

In light of this, all parishioners are cautioned not to leave their personal belongings unattended or out of sight, even when in church, especially while you go up to the communion rail.

***Forthcoming events to
watch for . . .***

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Church of the Holy Trinity wish to let the women of the church know that there will be an **executive committee and general membership meeting on September 27, at 10:45 a.m., at the Parish Hall.** Agenda includes the United Thanks Offering and livelihood projects. All churchwomen are enjoined to attend the meeting.

Weather permitting, there will be an ECW sponsored **Medical Mission to Tadian, Sagada, Mt. Province on October 9-10, 2009.** Please see the ECW bulletin board for details and sign-up sheet. Voluntary participation from church members is encouraged.

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
SEPT 20, 2009**

**We are thankful to those who are
ministering in the church this morning**

Celebrant: [7:30] The Rt. Rev. Arthur Jones
[9:30] The Rev. Barry Cumberland
Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Arthur Jones
Eucharistic Ministers: [7:30] Vicky Yu
[9:30] Richard Biteng / Robin Whale
Lectors: [7:30] Christopher Yu
[9:30] Rebecca Thompson
Ministers of Music: Holland Lou Buela / Domino Marcos
Ushers: [7:30] Danny Chua & Mary Tan
[9:30] Sybille Ann Kawi/Vicky Lee
Acolytes: Patrick Dagas/Alexis Dalmas/Loren Ursua
Eric Gatulla/Dexter Fanged/David Joaquin
*Offering of the Bread and Wine &
Hospitality:* Malcolm & Jocelyn Pick
*The altar flowers are donated to the glory
of God by:* Lionel & Tessie Shau

COLLECT: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

First Reading: Wisdom 1:16-2:1,12-22
Second Reading: James 3:16-4:6, *page 1360-1361*
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37, *(NRSV)*

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY:

[7:30] Gradual No. 416, For the beauty of the earth
Recessional No. The Church's one foundation

[9:30] Processional No. 525, The Church's one foundation
Gradual Father welcomes all his children (insert)
Communion No. 338, Wherefore, O Father
No. 654, Day by day
Recessional No. 416, For the beauty of the earth

Your prayers are asked for:

Those who are celebrating their birthdays this week especially

Glicerio Abad (Sept. 20)

Ricardo Martin (Sept. 22)

Bing Ceballos (Sept. 21)

Jon Lindborg (Sept. 23)

Tiffany Rachelle Shau (Sept. 21)

Katherine Grace Ursua (Sept. 24)

Yolanda Chan (Sept. 22)

Carlyn Manning-Drumm (Sept. 26)

Alessandra Ma. Dominique Dalmas (Sept. 22)

Those who are celebrating their wedding anniversary especially

Thomas & Lilia Yu.

Those who are in need of healing especially Beryl Tanner, Ron Jacob, Agosto Macli Sr, Rom Vildzius, Audrey Lacson, Benjie Conzales, JPeter, Loy Solasco, Allan Waterfield, Jovel Llagas, Richard Kendall, Isabel Yu, Ted Whale, Merly Quiapos, Marilyn Jackson, Aris Paraman, Johnny Manning Jr, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Carrie Angus, Diana Croyston.

The repose of the soul of Katy Lao Go.

Jared Leigh Ignacio, Julio Alano, Joachim Frohmader, Remigio Kawi, Sr, Salome Torres on the occasion of their death anniversaries.

THIS WEEK:

September 21 Monday.

HOLIDAY. OFFICE CLOSED.

September 24 Thursday.

Midweek Eucharist, 10am. Chapel.

Bible study, 10:30am, Parish Hall.

Bible study, 7pm, Rectory.

September 27 Sunday.

7:30 & 9:30am Eucharist.

9:15am Sunday School, Parish Hall.

10:45am ECW meeting, Parish Hall.

	Loose Plate	Pledge
Last Sunday	P13,937.00	P15,050.00
Year - to - date	P766,191.00	P2,578,299.50
2009 Budget	P940,000.00	P3,900,000.00