

# TRINITY NEWS

## Epiphany III Climb Every Mountain Follow Every Rainbow

Jesus' ministry was caught up in the arrest and execution of John. When John is thrown into prison Jesus is just beginning. Jesus calls Simon and Andrew, James and John. They are all significant and they are called first. They were all working at their craft as fishermen.

John the Baptizer confronted people. Jesus called them. I heard the Mother Abbess singing *Climb Every Mountain* to Maria in the Sound of Music. It was utterly beautiful and Maria left behind her vocation and sought a blessing among children who were not her own and a man with whom she could sing the songs of love. She knew nothing of men. She just knew that it was right. So did Simon and Andrew, James and John.

Everything that the Church does has already been done for us. We baptise because Jesus was baptised. We break bread and drink wine because Jesus did. He ate real bread and drank real wine. He touched people with his words and his hands as he embraced them into his ministry. We don't just ordain people. We confirm what is already there through the inspiration of the Spirit of Jesus. Someone who does not have a strong sense of Jesus within them calling them into and onward into ministry should not present for ordination. It would be a sham. We find our life-passions in the affairs of our life, not outside them.

Christ saw Joseph at work with wood, smoothing the edges. He also saw shepherds in the hills above Nazareth rubbing their hands through the wool of their sheep. He mastered the supreme human art of touching the core, the nucleus of what makes us truly human. He did that in all the reported incidents in the Gospels. No story is told there for the sake of telling a story. It is told to recall the blending of one heart into another within the story. All the great poets and story tellers have tried to capture Cardinal John Newman's motto, taken from Augustine, *cor ad cor loquitur*, "heart speaking to heart". Jesus did not just tell stories. He used them to draw his listeners into his own heart of love. Simon and Andrew, James and John knew that it was a call that was right, that it was not expecting a refusal. We know from the Gospels what happened afterwards. We know about his teaching and his healings. We know about the Mount of Transfiguration and the glory of God seen there in Christ. We know about the Last Supper and

bread and wine as the symbols of the life and presence of Jesus at the Supper and after the Cross. We know about the Cross and the Resurrection. The work of our salvation has been done.

The saintly Bishop who ordained me listened to my inadequate explanation of why I should be ordained in my interview with him. Then he said, “Kneel down for my blessing, boy”. He was a gentle and holy man, but I knew even then that it was not *his* blessing. The priest and bishop rightly make the sign of the cross when absolving sin in the name of Christ in the Church and in blessing the people. It is a clear sign that the absolution and blessing do not come from the priest or bishop or the Church but from the offering of the love of Christ at Calvary. Salvation is not achieved by us. We receive what we have already been given. As the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, it was done “once for all” at the Cross. We do what Christ has already done for us.

What is Christ’s call for you? What part of his ministry can you imitate in doing afresh your own way what he has already done for us? That is truly to imitate Jesus in the world. It answers the call of God in Christ.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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### **THIS WEEK:**

**January 28, Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Study, 7:30pm, Parish Office.

**January 29, Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.

### **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1b-13; Mark 1:21-28

### **TO PLAN:**

**Annual General Meeting Feb. 1, after the 9:30am service**

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