

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost XII The Stuff of Memories and Miracles

John 6:53-59

First memories are like the first words that someone says to us. They stick in the glue that binds the fragments of our beginnings together. They also stick on us to like the price-tags on books that are so hard to remove sometimes when we plan to give them as a gift. Even when we tend to forget them, the slide rule of the partially unconscious gathering up of the mind sweeps around to recall them into focus again.

Even a stillborn baby has a history of hearing or feeling for a while the reverberations of the mother's body, the rippling effect of her speech, and the aching stresses of her mind and soul. This affects us for the rest of our life. It is the entry chamber of all our memories. Do you know who delivered you when you were born? Nurse Clarke delivered me like most of the others in my hometown. I remember her as grey-haired and wearing white when my mother pointed her out some years later. She was the first person to touch me when I was born. She instilled confidence and we knew her. She never married but she had a lot of children for whom she was the first person to carry the touch of a mother. She put me in my mother's arms. Do you know who did that for you? Perhaps you should find them if they are still alive and thank them for bringing the first human touch of God to you in the world.

My parents left me in an old T model Ford one day for a few moments while they went in to visit a relative. The vehicle only had cable brakes and on a slight incline the brakes gave way and it rolled down the incline. When they found me I was a gibbering mess because I had screamed myself near-speechless.

I was two and a half years old and I suffered from asthma shortly afterwards until I was 15 years of age. Unlike most of the other students I loved to go to school. I spent a lot of time away from school. They sent me to a place called Katoomba in the Blue Mountains to a Red Cross nursing home to make breathing easier. I was treated as a delicate child and that was harder to bear than the asthma. We had no real medication except ephedrine which left a sour taste in the mouth and had no real effect most of the time. Does this bring back any memories for you? Have you written them down somewhere?

The words in the gospel today at John 6:53-59 would be incomprehensible without being a remembrance of Jesus in the minds of those who loved him. The writer recalls Jesus words and shares them with those who knew him and those who came to know him after his death. They are prophetic in the mouth of Jesus about the Last Supper and the bloody mess that he was at the Cross. We don't eat his flesh and drink his blood literally, but he does come through those symbols to convey his life to us. Flesh and blood describe those who come from us. We come from him because we have accepted him as the source of our spirituality and our life. The Holy Spirit links his life with ours through the great symbols of the Cross and the Supper that announced it. It's not just bread and wine on Sunday morning but all that the Last Supper and the Cross meant in the life of Jesus of Nazareth and those around him. The Supper leads into the Cross and the Resurrection follows the Cross. Memory and miracles are linked together as they are in our own souls and bodies. Our bodies are living miracles of flesh and blood and mind. Our souls are the source of all that is miraculous in our journey. When the two blend together at our Last Day it is called Resurrection. Remember, and write it down.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday.

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Wednesday.

- Bible study, 10:00am.
- Group Discussion, 7:00pm, Parish Office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.

FRIDAY. Holiday. Office closed.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-25; Psalm 16; Ephesians 5:21-33; John 6:60-69
