

# Trinity News

## St. Luke's Day - Luke as Literary Interpreter of Jesus

One of the significant moments in the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church is when the candidate to be ordained Bishop walks into a Cathedral in procession wearing a purple cassock for the first time.

I did that on October 18, 1994, St Luke's Day, in St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne. I was surprised that they had elected me as a bishop because I preferred to be looking up a Greek verb in a library corner or holding somebody's hand when they were dying. **What we prefer sometimes becomes the dominant matter in our lives, especially if we discover the courage and conviction to believe that we can do it.** I would one day teach Greek grammar to Bible translators in India and I still find the ministry to the sick and dying to be the deepest ministry of all.

That day in Melbourne I came in wearing the purple cassock and then after the preliminaries I were sent out to put on the convocation robes of a bishop. When I walked back in I was startled because in one of the front rows was standing my diminutive Aunty Eva. It was like looking at a mirror replica of my mother who had died in 1976. We never forget our mothers. I still remember Mona Emily most days and I always empathize with those who have lost their mothers.

The preacher was Archdeacon Ted Gibson who had served most of his ministry in the diocese of Gippsland where I had been appointed the Bishop. Ted had been the chair of the committee that elected me and he was a wonderful pastor. He could walk into a room and be on the same wavelength of the people immediately, whatever their background. That is critical in any people-centred work anywhere.

The person who was the chief consecrator was Archbishop Keith Rayner who was the head of the Anglican Church in Australia. I saw this calm man ruffled only once, and the only tell-tale sign was the crimson tide that came up his neck to the bottom of his jaw. I had joined him at Morning Prayer in his beautiful chapel before I went down to the cathedral. When he said Morning Prayer it wasn't just a service of the Church, it was a communion with God. Later, when he retired someone asked him what it would be like to be retired after all the things had done in his life. He replied, "God has always enabled me to be content in whatever my situation might be in life."

**Go back in your mind's trail to where you were 21 years ago. Do you remember what you were doing on that day? I will always remember this particular day, October 18, while I live.**

It marked a seismic change in my life and propelled me into work in my own country and around the world that I could not possibly have ever envisaged when I was a little boy in my hometown in western New South Wales. It had 1700 people then and it still does have about 1700 people, though not many of the same ones!

I apologize for taking up a little space to share a little of my heart with you. The evangelist Luke is wonderful in recalling the stories that came from Jesus and the stories about him. He was a literary master and also a master of the spiritual life. He was called the Beloved Physician in the early Church, but I call him the beloved first gospel-poet of the Church. He loved Jesus more than he loved anything else. May we remember him today and may we learn from his literary artistry and also understand with him that no words can say it all about "the man for others" as Bonhoeffer called him. **Luke does not tell us much about his own personal spirituality, but he tells us a great deal about the personal spirituality of Jesus. He re-tells the story of the Merciful Samaritan, and the Wayward Son, his Reactionary Brother and his Merciful Father. Those short stories have no peer except for the story of the Compassionate One who told the stories.**

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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## THIS WEEK:

### **Monday.**

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

### **Wednesday.**

- Group Discussion, 7:30pm, Parish Office

### **Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 59:9-19

Psalms 13

Hebrews 5:12-6:1,9-12

Mark 10:46-52

## **TO PLAN:**

### **November 2. Monday.**

*All Soul's Day. Commemoration of the faithful departed.*

**November 8. Remembrance Sunday,**  
*9:30am.*

### **November 22. Sunday.**

*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7:00pm, Santuario de San Antonio Parish. Dinner follows.*

### **November 26. Thursday.**

*Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity Parish Hall. A sign up paper is on the board. Suggested closing date for booking is November 9.*

*Please join us!*