

**Welcome to worship at
Holy Trinity, Terrigal
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
(Sea Sunday)
11th July, 2021**



**There will be no services at Church until the
NSW Government Stay at Home Order is lifted.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parishioners,

I write this shortly after the news on Wednesday 7th July of the extension of the NSW COVID lockdown until midnight, Friday the 16th July. The number of cases, the ongoing risk of community transmission and the need for increased vaccinations have led the State Government to take this step. Let us pray for those who hold office in both State and Federal Governments during this difficult time.

Let us also remember that we have been through this recently with the lockdown in 2020. The time will come when we can look back to the current moment with a sense of relief. Yes, it is disappointing when we have to restrict our movements and activities. It is frustrating when our plans have to be cancelled or postponed. Remember to keep in touch with others by phone, text message, social media or 'Zoom' or other app. And let us pray for each other as we face each day with a measure of uncertainty.

May the Lord fill you with his peace and joy.

Fr Mark.

Seafarers Prayer

Heavenly Father, we commend to you all seafarers.

Guard and protect them in danger and temptation;

sustain them in loneliness;

and support them in sickness and anxiety.

Bless all who minister to them.

Watch over those who are near and dear to them,

and grant them the blessing of your presence.

These things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sentence

Who shall stand in the Lord's holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their hands to what is false.

Psalm 24.3-4

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
open our eyes to see your hand at work
in the splendour of creation
and in the beauty of human life.
Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Amos Chapter 7 verses 7-14

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land." "

And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85.8-13

8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.

**9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

**11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.

**13 For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Chapter 1 verses 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Chapter 6 verses 14-29

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.'

And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.'

The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



"WE'VE GOT THE POWER"

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - 11th July 2021

Mark 6:14-29

There's a meme online of Senator Palpatine from Stars Wars with two pictures of him: in the first one he's the Chancellor of the Republic, a benign and somewhat distinguished older gentleman with grey hair; in the second he's been transformed into the emperor of the new galactic Empire, now looking quite frightening with dark circles around his eyes and the bone structure of his face visible beneath his skin. The caption under the first says, 'Politicians before they get elected' and quotes him as saying, "I love democracy; I love the Republic."

The caption under the second says, 'Politicians after they get elected' and has him saying, "I have the power; unlimited power." The desire for unlimited power, the desire to exercise control, the desire to be in charge, is a major source of the world's problems.

Galadriel, at the beginning of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*, says, "The race of men, who above all else desire power."

American Episcopal priest and theology professor, Ephraim Radner, in his book, *A Time to Keep: Theology, Mortality and the Shape of a Human Life* argues that, in the West we're living through a "Great Transition." Our expectations of life and health and so on, have been altered. Rowan Williams, in a review of Radner's book, says this means we are less and less capable of seeing our lives as following a God-given trajectory, i.e., birth, generation, and death which constitute the way God gives us of being human. From a Christian point of view, we keep growing in our humanity to the point at which we resign our lives into God's hands for a "Great Transfiguration." Williams says, that this journey for Christians is modelled on that of Jesus Christ. To be a Christian is to accept the incarnate Christ as the one who marks out the shape of human life lived under grace.

This includes a joyful and obedient awareness of limitation. Our temptation in the modern world is to treat every real or supposed limitation as a sort of insult to our liberty, our creativity and our dignity. How dare anyone presume to tell me I can't send text messages while I'm driving. I read in *The Open Road* some letters complaining about the trend to cross unbroken double lines instead of staying on our side. It's treated like a suggestion. More consequential than that, we want to choose when we will die. Or when the inconvenience of an unwanted pregnancy will be terminated.

"We prize the self-directed, self-constructed identity over against what is slowly and painstakingly woven in the interaction between what is received and what is decided or chosen." We are losing a sense of narrative in our humanity. We want the power.

In international politics, names like Erdogan, Duterte, Kim, Xi, Trump, Putin are just some examples today of Lord Acton's famous saying, "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

When Adam and Eve were approached by the serpent they were told they could be like God if they ate of the forbidden fruit. Tantalizing.

The desire for power is the desire to be like God who alone has absolute power. Accepting our limitations is to accept that we are not God. We are reminded every day by the realities of our existence like gravity and mortality, that we're limited.

Jesus said we can't add one inch to our height simply by willing it. St Paul yearned to do the right thing but instead he did what he didn't want to do. It's the same with us. The Bible says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord." God gives us power over some things but not others. Could it be that we're not good at handling power? If I'm treated unjustly by someone and then I try to pay them back by meting out just retribution, I may be kidding myself that I'm acting justly and doing it for their own good. In reality it just makes me feel good because I'm getting my own back. We have trouble being honest about our inmost thoughts and how they're translated into actions.

In our society we have technology, we're well-fed, we have nice houses to live in, we drive nice cars, our children and grandchildren attend good schools. I'm very grateful to have been fortunate in my life. But in 1982, we were in recession.

Twice that year I was retrenched. When you're jobless, you feel powerless. But that whole year, I had a roof over my head, and I never had to worry about where my next meal was coming from.

Thanks to technology and advances in science, medicine, and surgery, we have increased our knowledge and "knowledge is power." We have gained control over many deadly diseases. Tuberculosis, Smallpox, Polio and even Measles were once feared as probable death sentences. I went to the dentist last Monday and felt so grateful for modern dental surgery.

Teeth once made life a living hell for many people. All this is wonderful and thank God for it. Yet there is a danger that we become overblown by our achievements and start to think we're omnipotent, like God. Has the COVID-19 pandemic at least shaken us out of some of our illusions?

Today's Gospel relates a tragic event. All four Gospels begin with John the Baptist who foretold the coming of the Messiah. But John doesn't last long. He recognises that "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." It doesn't take long for him to leave the scene. And it's a violent exit.

John had preached out in the Judean wilderness, calling people to repent and be baptized to prepare the way for the coming of the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He was a powerful figure. Back in Judea was another powerful voice. John's power was moral and spiritual. Herod's power was political and violent. As in all political systems, when his power was threatened, he responded with violence.

John criticised Herod who had divorced his wife and Herodias who had divorced her husband, so she and Herod could marry each other. So, she was no fan of this meddling prophet who fearlessly told the truth. But it cost John his life. John was driven by his call to speak the truth, to proclaim the word of God. Herod silenced John using the power of the Roman Empire.

Listen to the news or read history. The one with the sharpest sword or the fastest gun or the biggest bomb ends up as the winner. You don't have to go to church or read the Bible to discover that. It doesn't have to be proved. It's a fact.

What we might miss if we don't read between the lines is that there are different forms of power. Herod is powerful enough to lose half his kingdom if that's what the girls asks. He can order someone's head to be cut off and it's done. What power!

Yet because of a rash promise he must give in to a young girl's request. He didn't want John killed. Is that power?

There's great irony here. Herod had John killed to shut him up. Yet throughout history, John is a model of courage and Herod the epitome of cowardice. Despite their best efforts, the Herods of this world cannot silence the gospel. Who has real power? What is real power?

The story of John closes with an account of his burial. John apparently had no family, so it was left up to his disciples. Why does Mark include this small detail? Giving him a decent burial was a courageous thing to do, because anyone who had been executed by the government was an enemy of the state.

Herod thought he had put an end to this nuisance once and for all. Pilate and the Jewish religious leaders thought they had silenced Jesus once and for all. But the preaching and the gospel and the courage continues. They cannot be silenced.

Every time you speak up for love instead of hate; every time you stand up for justice instead of injustice; every time you stand up for truth instead of falsehood, you are a vehicle through which Jesus is subverting the old world and creating a new one through you. That's true power.

Fr Mark

Please pray for:

John Hart, Norm Williams, Tania Howlett, David Lamb and Gloria Townsend, Helen Quinn and Margaret Hassall.

Direct Debit details of account:

ASDF Account - Parish of Terrigal
BSB: 705-077 Account number: 00040934

'Whispers of Love' Meditation

Reflection:

Lord Jesus Christ, my friend and brother,
grant me the strength to follow you when you call,
and confidence to share with others the salvation
you have won for us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
my Saviour and my Judge,
grant me the courage to speak out when voices are silenced,
and to resolve to act in your name when evil days weigh heavy
on us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and King,
grant me the grace to walk alongside you
through our world,
so that I might be an agent of your transforming love. Amen.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayerfully, Reverend Ann.

Op Shop Closed

The Op Shop is closed until after the NSW Government lifts the
Stay at Home Order.

Samaritans

When we are able to return to church, some suggestions for
donations are clean blankets, roll-on deodorant and shampoo.

Thank you.

Margaret MacLachlan.

Prayer of the week

O Lord, we beseech you
mercifully to receive the prayers of your people
who call upon you,
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power
faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost [OS 15]

Sea Sunday

– Sunday 11 July 2021

- 2 Samuel 6.1-5, 6.12b-19; Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1.1-14; Mark 6.14-29

St Paul writes to the Church at Ephesus outlining the great plan that God has for us: 'He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ'. We are not just creatures of the Creator, but God's children. We have an inheritance gained for us by Jesus Christ. We are God's people.

- Give thanks that God has called us to be his people, and pray that we may be made worthy of that great calling.
Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea, the *Daehan Seong Gong Hoe*.

Text: Robert McLean
ABM's Partnerships Coordinator
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Rosters for next week –

Only if the NSW Government Stay at Home Order has been lifted and Church has resumed.

18th July – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8.00am

Readers	Intercession	Servers
Robyn Crowley Chris Crowley	TBA	TBA

9.30am

Readers	Intercession	Server
Sue James Jocelyn Mulcahy	TBA	TBA
Flowers	Morning Tea	
Jackie Davidson	Evelyn White Irene Neville Marie Partier	

Next Sunday 18th July, 2021 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8.00am – TBA

Presiding & Preaching – *Fr Mark Watson*

Organist – *Chris Sillince*

9.30am – TBA

Presiding & Preaching – *Fr Mark Watson*

Organist – *Sharon Sandstrom*

Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-16, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2.11-22

Gospel: Mark 6.30-34, 53-56.

This Week

Please note there will be no events until after the NSW Government has lifted the Stay at Home Order and Church has resumed.

Monday 12th July

Tuesday 13th July

*Sydney James Kirkby, bishop, pioneer of outback ministry
and the Bush Church Aid Society (d. 1935)*

Wednesday 14th July

Thursday 15th July

Friday 16th July

Saturday 17th July

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The Reverend Ann Watson – 0427 135 771

The Reverend Roy Hazlewood – 0418 290 192

The Reverend Dr Richard Harvey – 0422 109 262

The Reverend Bruce McAteer - 0417 229 296

Parish Executive

Rector's Warden – Neil Ewer 0412 640 477

People's Warden – Terry Rowe 4365 0430

People's Warden – Kyara Newport 0400 994 779

Parish Secretary - Kyara Newport 0400 994 779

Parish Treasurer - Terry Rowe 4365 0430

Parish Ministries

Parish Organist - Chris Sillince 0422 225 849

Sacristan - Coralie Taylor

Office Co-Ordinator – Cal Priest 4365 1115

Messy Church Convenor - Rhonda Kiss 4363 5001

Pastoral Care - contact 4365 1115

Trinity Band & Cursillo – Libby Harvey 0431 315 085

Safety Officer - Mike Keaney 0412 370 716

Copyright Compliance Officer – Terry Rowe 4365 0430

Parish Bookshop – Ronda Kiss 4363 5001

Women's Fellowship – Pam Flegg 4384 5326

Market Day Co-ordinator – Ian Wolstenholme 0426 366 565

Parish Opportunity Shop

Carolyn Shields / Christine De Gans - 4365 1280

The Op Shop is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9.00am to 4.00pm

Fridays open from 9.00am to 10.15am and from 11:15am to 4.00pm

(Please note Friday between 10.15am-11.15am the Op Shop is CLOSED)

Saturdays open from 10.00am to 1.00pm