



St Matthew's Holland Park Weekly Bulletin 17th August 2025

This week's Revd. Morris' message: **Jesus calls us out of any complacency to follow Him and His Way in our times. How will we respond today?**



Today's reading is a world away from our image of Jesus meek and mild! No sugar coating here ..it's all about **Fire, Division and Decision!** Jesus lays out in summary form the Way of Salvation and prepares us all for what we can expect to encounter when walking that Way with Him.

Firstly, Jesus likens His atoning death upon the Cross as His **'terrible baptism'**. Through the Cross Jesus takes our [and the whole of humankind's] sins upon himself and redeems us [pays the price of our sins on our behalf] so that we may be restored to full relationship with God and again become more of our True Selves- the persons we were made and meant to be. This echos what happens in Baptism where our sins are washed away and we receive the Holy Spirit into our lives. What an amazing Divine Gift of Grace are both these 'Baptisms' and the Way we are offered to walk in fellowship with God!

Secondly, Jesus alerts us as to what we are likely to encounter from others as we walk that Divine Way. Those who walk other paths can't understand our actions, intentions or our underlying 'drivers'. We will, at best, be encouraged to leave our path for theirs, or at worst, be punished in some fashion if we don't do so. How often are we challenged by those who know us the best and with whom we share love to come along with them? Often it is in our families that issues of different priorities for spending time, talents and treasures; raising children in the faith; church and other events attendance etc become divisive. Jesus here is not to be seen as encouraging division. Rather, he is foreshadowing that which will arise for those who are faithful and, despite opposition, persist in following Him and his Way.

Lastly, Jesus calls us to be attentive to the signs of our times and pray to accurately discern them and God's call to us to action so as to be faithful in these our times. Some scholars discern 3 complementary readings of verse 56 - .."**you refuse to notice the warnings all around you about the crisis ahead**"... One is that Jesus is calling for a recognition concerning the imminent destruction of Jerusalem and the Diaspora of the Jewish people after 70 AD. Another is the existential crisis of our own mortality



and the inevitability of Divine judgement. A further interpretation is that this also alludes to Jesus' Second Coming in Judgement to put all things to right. Jesus likens this to an oncoming fire front - we must act now!

So, what lessons can we take from this gospel reading today?



Jesus is today calling us out of any sense of complacency. He is demanding that we immediately :

1. Consider closely upon which path we are walking- His or someone else's? ... Or perhaps we are simply drifting along upon our own path 'following our feet'?

2. Hold ourselves prepared to gracefully and lovingly stand firm when others disagree, argue or seek to influence or punish us for our faithfulness to Him and walking His Way. We must be ready to give reason for the hope that is within us but with gentleness and respect [1 Peter 3:15] and

3. Pray for wisdom and discernment to understand our times, Jesus' calls to action for us in the here and now and His strength and courage to say 'Yes'! and respond to those calls.

Here at St Matt's, we have been blessed with a rich legacy of over a century of our forebears being faithful followers of Jesus and His way in their times. Eschewing complacency, they responded proactively to the 3 demands of Jesus noted above. Let us likewise do so in our times empowered by His strength and to His Glory.

I wonder what Jesus may be calling us all to do about His Way today? Gospel

reading: Luke 12: 49-59 To dig further: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-20-3/commentary-on-luke-1249-56-2>

Upcoming Parish Activities : Midweek service - Morning Prayer **Wednesday**

@10:30am; **Meditation @ 5 p.m**; **Op Shop** - Thursday and First Saturday 9 am until Noon; **Behind the scenes thx:** Our Choir led by Graham

Readings for next Sunday: Margaret : Jeremiah 1:4-10 ; Ps 71:1-6 ; **Rebecca:** Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13: 10-17.

Parish Directory: Revd Morris Rangiwai: 0449 557 351;

morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au. **NB Revd Morris will be on leave until the 3/9/25** Please refer all pastoral matters to the Wardens.

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Bank Details: Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ;

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.