

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKLEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

18 March 2018

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

HYMNS: 755 62 361 169 170 349

INTROIT: How will a young man keep his behaviour pure? By keeping it according to Your Word.

I have been seeking You with all my heart. Do not let me go astray from Your Commandments!

I have treasured Your Word in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your Prescriptions!

With my lips I have proclaimed all the Decisions of Your mouth.

I have been rejoicing in the way of Your Testimonies as much as in all riches.

Let me meditate on Your Directions, and let me examine Your Ways!

I shall delight in Your Statutes. I shall not forget Your Word.

Psalm 119:9-16

COLLECT: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people, that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Jeremiah 31:31-34 "I shall make a new covenant with the family of Israel."

Hebrews 5:1-10 The source of salvation for all who obey Him.

Mark 10:32-45 "The Son of Man has not come to be served, but to serve."

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

Push for Legalised Abortion in Queensland.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission currently is conducting an inquiry into the reform of abortion law in Queensland.

Immediately prior to Christmas (on 23 December) advertisements were published inviting the public to make submissions. Submissions closed on 13 February 2018 and the scheduled deadline date for the QLRC to report to Parliament is 30 June 2018.

Yet at a rally on 21 January this year, it now has been revealed that Jackie Trad, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in Queensland, told abortion supporters that the QLRC would “come back to us [the Government] in March this year.”

Cherish Life¹ president Julie Borger says, “Is this a sign of more shenanigans from Jackie Trad and her radical pro-abortion supporters? Only a little over a year ago, two parliamentary inquiries effectively rejected abortion law reform and the two bills moved by Independent MP Rob Pyne were withdrawn from the Parliament because of their pending defeat, yet it seems those who want to remove the last protections in Queensland for unborn children won’t take ‘no’ for an answer.”

Mrs Borger noted that the overwhelming majority of submissions to both inquiries opposed change and the No position was supported by 83% of the submissions to the parliamentary inquiry. 55, 604 submissions were received.

“The QLRC inquiry is now under a cloud of possible foul play,” Mrs Borger now says. “Queenslanders have spoken out firmly and overwhelmingly to say they do not want these reforms. The referral to the QLRC smacks of a government more intent on foisting an extreme ideology upon this state than it is about good governance and proper process.”

What can we do?

Go to the following address <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=2856> and sign the petition. The closing date of the petition is 30 April, 2018.

¹ Cherish Life is an association of people who are committed to protecting natural life at all stages. www.cherishlife.org.au

Forgiveness belongs to us.

The Formula of Concord says: “Concerning the discharge of Christ’s office, the person acts and does its work not in, with, through, or according to one nature alone but in, according to, with, and through both natures, or, as the Council of Chalcedon says, each nature does its work in communion with the other, whatever specific characteristic may be involved” (FC SD VIII:46).

In carrying out His work as our Prophet, Priest, and King, each nature in Christ contributed what was its own work according to its own properties. However, in all of Christ’s official acts, the other nature participated in that act. To submit to the Law, Jesus had to be true man. To submit for all people, He had to be God. To suffer and die for the sins of the world, Jesus had to be man. To make that suffering and death sufficient for all people, Jesus had to be God.

The Formula of Concord quotes Luther to this effect:

“We Christians should know that if God is not in the scale to give it weight, we, on our side, sink to the ground. I mean it this way: if it cannot be said that God died for us, but only a man, we are lost; but if God’s death and a dead God lie in the balance, His side goes down and ours goes up like a light and empty scale. Yet He can also readily go up again, or leap out of the scale! But He could not sit on the scale unless He had become a human being like us, so that it could be called God’s dying, God’s martyrdom, God’s blood, and God’s death. For God in His own nature cannot die; but now that God and man are united in one person, it is called God’s death when the man dies who is one substance or one person with God.” From this it is evident that it is incorrect to say or write that these expressions, “God suffered,” “God died,” are simply *praedicatio verbalis* (that is, simply mere words), which are not in fact true. For our simple Christian creed demonstrates that the Son of God, who became human, suffered for us, died for us, and redeemed us with His blood. (FC SD VIII:44-45)

Therefore, we sing in one of our Lenten hymns, “Oh, sorrow dread; God’s Son is dead!” (Hymn 63). God cannot suffer and die. Yet by virtue of the personal union, God the Son did suffer and die. This is a mystery that goes beyond all comprehension. God forsaken by God on the cross! How can this be? Yet it happened, as God Himself tells us in His Holy Word. Because it happened, we are certain of our forgiveness and eternal life with our Lord in heaven.

Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

21 March 6 th mid-week Lenten Service	25 March Palm Sunday	29 March Maundy Thursday
7.30pm OAK Vespers	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	7.30pm AUB HC
Wednesday, 21 March		
READINGS: Hebrews 10:19-25; Matthew 27:33-44; Mark 15:20-32; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:16-24; Luke 23:39-43; John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-40; Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 14:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:62-66		
HYMNS: 68 70 173 48 v.3		
Sunday, 25 March		
READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-12;	Philippians 2:5-11;	John 12:12-19
HYMNS: 86 10 733 (67 53) 758		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Guild are again sponsoring a colouring-in competition for the children of the parish at this year's Parish Picnic, to be held on Monday the 2nd of April. Prizes will be awarded for each of the following age categories: Toddler up to 5; 6-8; 9-11; 12-13. Please take a picture home with you today and bring them along to the picnic.