

# ABM Speaker's Corner



Issue 3, June 2012



## Pentecost Greetings from Speaker's Corner

Pentecost Greetings to all our Volunteer Speakers,

A very warm welcome to your third edition of Speaker's Corner for 2012. Your feedback is always most welcome. We would again like to hear what you think future Speaker's Corner editions should contain.

Thank you for your hard work, tireless efforts and support of ABM - we can't do it without you.

I hope you have a very Blessed Pentecost.

*Michael Robinson*

## Speaker's Prayer

*Almighty God, as we engage with our ABM family and friends around Australia, may the gifts that you have taught us give us the confidence to spread your word and bring our work into the hearts of all Australians. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

*Amen*

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### Inside this issue ...

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### Name Badges

The next order of name badges will be submitted at the end of July 2012. Anyone requiring name badges should contact Lorraine Forster, Support Officer - ABM Committees, on email [committee.support@abm.asn.au](mailto:committee.support@abm.asn.au)



## A SERIES OF PEW REFLECTIONS FOR PENTECOST

Written by The Revd Loy Thompson, Diocese of Newcastle © Anglican Board of Mission, 2012

### Feast of Pentecost – Sunday 27 May 2012

- Acts 2.1-21 or Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 104.26-36;  
Romans 8.22-27 or Acts 2.1-21;  
John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

The Spirit of God is given to us as a gift. On Pentecost Sunday the Church celebrates with great enthusiasm the outpouring of the Spirit on everyone and then sometimes fails to embrace the working of the Spirit in the lives of each of its members.

Pentecost is a time to affirm the gifts given to each person and encourage each person to use their gifts, confident that the spirit who gives the gifts will also give the necessary guidance in their use. But what is the work of the Spirit? The Holy Spirit comes to convince us of the truth of Jesus and enable us to bear witness to that same truth. The Spirit comes to bear witness to the unity of the Father and Son and draw us into that same living, loving unity as we minister and serve in Jesus' name.

- Let us pray that the breath of the Spirit will renew and refresh the efforts of all who work for the growth and fulfilment of God's Kingdom.
- Give thanks for those who listen for the Spirit's voice and respond without apprehension or delay.

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### The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Thursday 31 May 2012

- 1 Samuel 2.1-10; Psalm 113;  
Romans 12.9-16b; Luke 1.39-57

Hospitality, generosity, humility, service and joy, the qualities of Kingdom people, leap at us from this passage of Scripture. Acting on the message of the Angel, Mary hastens to visit her cousin. For Mary there is no basking in the glory and honour God has bestowed upon her. She is the handmaid of the Lord, she is God's servant and, prompted by the Spirit, she goes to serve others who have also been blessed by God. Mary's Hymn of praise emphasizes her great humility as she joyfully proclaims the greatness of God, attributing to God all that has happened to her. Furthermore, Mary recognizes that her encounter with God is not for personal honour and glory but for God to achieve his plans and purposes for the whole of humankind.

- Let us pray today for those in authority that they may set aside power, status and honour and use their calling for the good of all.
- Give thanks for all those who visit the sick, the lonely and the elderly in Christ's name.

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### Trinity Sunday – Sunday 3 June 2012

- Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

Rublev's icon of the Trinity has been, for many years, my inspiration whenever I want to reflect on the Trinity. To read commentaries on the icon is to allow oneself to come tentatively to the table of the Trinity and be embraced by Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For today I encourage you to locate a copy of the icon and use it as a help to bring you into the company of the Trinity where you can sit quietly and just enjoy being there. Listen to the communication occurring between Father, Son and Spirit. What are they saying? Listen to what each person of the Trinity is saying to you. Listen as you are affirmed, encouraged, challenged and forgiven. Listen as you are invited to a deeper and deeper relationship with Father, Son and Spirit. Listen as you are called and commissioned for a particular work in God's Kingdom. Above all, listen to the words of love that are being spoken to you and the words of love being given to you to share with others.

- Pray today for a greater appreciation of the mystery of the Trinity and its central place in the beliefs and practices of the Church.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, for its three Archbishops, Brown Turei, David Moxon and Winston Halapua, and for their clergy and people.

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### Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion – Thursday 7 June 2012

- Exodus 24.3-8; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 10.14-21;  
Mark 14.12-16 (17-21) 22-26

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is one that challenges many people, theologians included. Saint Paul does not hesitate to affirm that the Eucharistic meal is a sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ. This affirmation reflects the statement of Jesus at the Last Supper and which is also proclaimed at Eucharistic Services when the Minister invites us to Communion with the words "Come let us take the Body and Blood of Christ in remembrance that He died for us and let us feed on him in our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving." In relation to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist Saint Thomas Aquinas states, "What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do, Truth himself speaks truly, or there's nothing true." In a similar vein we have the words of Queen Elizabeth I who stated "Christ was the word that spake it. He took the bread and break it; and what his words do make it That I believe and take it."

- Let us pray today for all those ordained to the priesthood that they will continue to draw their congregations into meaningful Eucharistic worship.
- Give thanks for the all those who serve at the altar in churches throughout Australia and overseas.

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**Second Sunday after Pentecost  
– Sunday 10 June 2012**

- 1 Samuel 8.4-20; 11.14-15; Psalm 138;  
2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 (2-5); Mark 3.20-35

Through this passage Mark involves us in the frantic pace of Jesus' ministry. It almost seems that matters are out of control. The crowd are gathering in a kind of frenzy, the religious leaders are agitated, Jesus' family are disturbed and the evil spirits are giving public recognition to the presence of God among them. What a mess. If we take our cue from the prayer of the day we will see that Jesus is acting with purpose and with power. After all he is the Son of God and his work is to teach and show others what the Kingdom of God is about. Jesus makes it clear that no earthly or spiritual power, in fact, no family, will deter him from his mission. There is urgency in this work of God, the powers of evil must be overthrown, the disciples must be taught, and people are to be set free from evil and sickness.

- Let us pray for a greater sense of urgency in carrying out the work of God in the communities to which we belong, and for the strength to stand against those who seek to thwart God's purposes for his creation.
- Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, for Archbishop Albert Chama, and for his clergy and people.

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**Third Sunday after Pentecost  
– Sunday 17 June 2012**

- 1 Samuel 15.34-16.13; Psalm 20;  
2 Corinthians 5.6-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 4.26-34

An experienced gardener knows that to obtain good results there must be a combination of good conditions, hard work, time and patience. A good gardener also knows that the preparation is the most time consuming aspect of gardening, the rest you might say is up to nature. The work of ministry is the work of God and it happens day in and day out as God uses our words, our actions, our witness to bring others to a greater awareness of God's presence in their lives. The work of mission and ministry begins, grows and finds its completion in God. We are to work with God knowing that the outcome will always be in-keeping with God's plans and purposes for his people and for the whole of creation. There is room for all in God's Kingdom, no-one is excluded. Our task is to extend the invitation to come.

- We pray today for a clearer recognition of where and how God is at work in the world.
- Give thanks for the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, the Independent Church of the Philippines, for *Obispo Maximo* Ephraim S. Fajutagana, and for his clergy and people.

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**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday 24 June 2012**

- 1 Samuel 17. (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49 with Psalm 9.9-20; or  
1 Samuel 17.57-18.5, 10-16 with Psalm 133  
2 Corinthians 6.1-13; Mark 4.35-41

One of the ways of looking at miracles in the Gospel stories is to see them as another kind of parable. This miracle story is no different. Beginning with the story of Creation we find that water is symbolic of power, mystery, darkness and danger. But we are also familiar with the fact that through water new life and new hope are given to creation and to God's people. Creation emerges from the watery darkness, the waters of the flood destroyed all evil in the land, God's Chosen people found freedom in passing through the Red Sea, and John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by baptizing people in the River Jordan. In this encounter with the stormy sea of Galilee Jesus is declaring that he has come to destroy evil, that he has come to declare that the whole earth belongs to God, and that the power of God is at work in him. There is no need to fear in any situation – God is in charge.

- Let us pray for all whose lives are swamped by darkness and confusion that Christ's power may bring them peace and assurance.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Kai*, the Anglican Church in Japan, for its Archbishop, Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, and for his clergy and people.

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**Peter and Paul, Apostles and Martyrs – Friday 29 June 2012**

- Acts 12.1-11 or Ezekiel 34.11-16; Psalm 87  
or Psalm 34.1-10;  
2 Timothy 4.6-8 (9-16) 17-18; John 21.15-22

This encounter between Jesus and Peter presents a lesson of hope to all involved in ministry and all who are trying to guide others in ministry. There is intimacy in this encounter and, for Peter some measure of embarrassment. There is a reminder of Peter's failure along with a re-iteration of the commission already given. Failure is an aspect of humanity we all need to accept and approach with reality. An old monk when asked what he did all day replied "I fail and I get up, I fail and I get up, I fail and I get up". So what Jesus is saying in word and action in this meeting with Peter is that failure, or fear of failure is no excuse for opting out of mission and ministry. God doesn't change his mind about the purposes and plans he has for each of us. We just need to drink deeply from the well of humility, call on God's forgiveness and renew our efforts in his service.

- Let us pray for the humility to admit our failures and continue confidently in our service of God and his Church.
- Give thanks for all those who work to further God's mission today, following in the footsteps of St Peter and St Paul.

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## Lina Magallanes reports on a visit to the Philippines



Bgy Maligaya is one of 4 communities I visited; it is a low-lying coastal community, located in the southeast of Luzon. It is very different from the traditional communities we have worked in which were/are mostly Igorots (in the north) and Tedurays (in the south). Bgy Maligaya is a coconut and rice producing community, with occasional fishing when the ocean (Pacific) was gentle enough for the people to venture out to sea. It looked like a tropical paradise to me but the people are quite poor. They are very interested to learn and do things to improve their economic situation. Using resources already available in the community, it is hoped that we are able to fund the production of virgin coconut oil (and other similar products); making rattan handicrafts; and venturing into some simple and basic pork meat processing.

## Volunteer Speakers & Diocesan Contacts

*This list only contains people who have given ABM written permission to have their contact details published. To be included, please e-mail your details to Michael Robinson (see address below).*

<i>Bendigo</i>	<i>Mrs Myrtle Shay</i>
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough</i>
<i>Bunbury</i>	<i>The Rev'd Bill Byleveld</i>
<i>Canberra</i>	<i>The Rev'd Rebecca Newland</i>
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Mr Brett Collins</i>
<i>Newcastle</i>	<i>The Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer</i>
<i>Perth</i>	<i>The Ven. Lionel Snell</i>
<i>Rockhampton</i>	<i>Mrs Sybil Pawley</i>
<i>SA Province</i>	<i>The Right Rev'd David McCall</i>
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Mrs Edwina Waddy</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>The Rev'd Warwick Cuthbertson</i>

## Autumn edition of Partners Magazine

In the latest edition of Partners magazine, we highlight the importance of partnership, in particular, we look at some of our non-financial partners; how relationships such as these are integral to the work of ABM within Australia and overseas. The magazine will be available from the end of May.

### List of Resources

#### For Education and Publicity

- Prayer Diary
- Project Book
- Annual Report
- ABM DVDs
- Partner Brochures
- Magnets
- Posters (Marks of Mission, Country overview)
- Banners

#### For Fundraising

- Duplex (Giving) envelopes
- Purses
- Bequest Forms
- Crosses
- Prayer Diaries
- Project Book

### CONTACT US

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