

# ABM Speakers' Corner



Issue 5, Nov/Dec 2012



## 2012 CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

You can still purchase the 2012 Christmas Cards from the Sydney Office. The order form may be downloaded from the Merchandise page on our website or please contact our office to place your order.

Get in early this year!

## Speakers' 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*

### WELCOME

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

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

Richest Blessings.

*Michael Robinson*

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**A SERIES OF PEW REFLECTIONS WRITTEN BY  
FR JOHN KAFWANKA IN LONDON  
AND THE VEN EMMANUEL YONA CHIKOYA ARCHDEACON IN  
THE DIOCESE OF LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**The Feast of Christ the King**  
– Sunday 25 November 2012

- 2 Samuel 23.1-7 or Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14;  
Psalm 132.1-12 (13-18) or Psalm 93;  
Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

Jesus was never born or lived like a king; he grew up in a carpenter's house and most probably learnt carpentry as his trade. In his life and ministry, Jesus was never known as a king; he served others instead of being served, and his kingship was only recognised at his death with inscriptions written on his cross, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. Jesus spoke about and embodied the coming of the kingdom of God – the rule of God, which was being experienced through washing people's feet, befriending and forgiving sinners, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, feeding the hungry and speaking for the weak. His love was and still is an all-embracing love, which restores relationships and transforms lives.

We are celebrating a different kind of kingship. Thank God we have such a king, a servant king; and thank God for such a Saviour, a friend and master, and thank God we are disciples of such a king.

- Pray that we may take seriously the implications of being disciples of such a king, and that through the life of Christians the world may experience Christ as the prince of peace and servant king.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea.

**The First Sunday of Advent (Year C begins today)**  
– Sunday 2 December 2012

- Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10;  
1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-38

This Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent, which is a period for reflection and repentance in anticipation of the coming of the promised Messiah. In today's reading from Luke's Gospel a gloomy picture is presented to us about the end times, we are told of how people will faint because of the events that will take place, but against this background we are told to anticipate, to pray and watch so that we do not lose our faith. Prophet Jeremiah gives an assurance that a redeemer will emerge from David's lineage.

**Today's question:** How do I ensure that the spirit of anticipation, prayerfulness and watchfulness is embraced by all those who have resigned themselves to fate due to the unprecedented catastrophes in the world today?

- Pray for all who have resigned themselves to fate, that their faith might be rekindled.
- Give thanks for the Anglican Alliance, the development, relief and advocacy network of the Anglican Communion.



### The Third Sunday of Advent

– Sunday 16 December 2012

- Zephaniah 3.14-20;  
Song of Isaiah (APBA p. 391);  
Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

In today's readings from Zephaniah, Philippians and Luke, we are given a message of restoration; there is exhortation not to be anxious and instead to rejoice in the Lord at all times. In the Gospel, God even restores those that were least expected to be restored.

**Today's question:** How do I bring the message to all those around me who think they are beyond restoration?

- Pray for all who feel that they have sinned beyond restoration; that they are brought to the restorative power of the Gospel.
- Give thanks for those who rejoice in God, no matter what their circumstances.

### St Thomas

– Friday 21 December 2012

- Habakkuk 2.1-4; Psalm 117;  
Ephesians 2.19-22; John 20.24-29

St Thomas, as an Apostle, is more often than not referred to negatively with the famous doubting Thomas phrase. However there is a positive aspect about him that can be deduced from the Gospel according to John. In this text a very important element that even validates the resurrection is linked to Thomas in his insistence that, unless he saw nail marks and a pierced side, he would not believe that Christ had risen. In seeking verification he had not lost faith but wanted to have verifiable facts to confirm his belief. Thomas teaches us not to be blind followers.

**Today's question:** How can I be accommodating to those around me who may at times ask deep searching and at times controversial questions about the Christian faith?

- Pray for all who are having great difficulty in believing in the various aspects of our faith
- Give thanks for the work of those who endeavour to explain the challenging aspects of the Christian faith.

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

– Sunday 23 December 2012

- Micah 5.2-5a; Song of Mary (APBA p. 31);  
Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

In today's readings, particularly the Gospel and Micah, we are told about how God uses insignificant things or people to do significant things. The town of Bethlehem and Mary were not notable but through them the Saviour entered the human scene, thereby showing that God is ready to use anyone as long as they are faithful, available and trusted. He is the God who turns zeroes into heroes.

**Today's question:** How do I recognise the work of God in all those around me without looking down on those who may not have the right profile?

- Let us pray that all who call themselves Christians will not discriminate or write off people God may be using because of their background and status in society.
- Give thanks for the people who will worship with us in Church over the Christmas period. May they find a warm welcome.

### Christmas Day

– Tuesday 25 December 2012

- Isaiah 62.6-12; Psalm 97;  
Titus 3.4-8a; Luke 2.(1-7) 8-20

Today's readings have a resounding message that the promised Saviour came into the world to save us and set us free from all manner of oppression especially sin. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ and the birth of the Church.

**Today's question:** How do I participate in making Christ be born in the lives of many around me who are oppressed by sin and its ravages?

- Let us pray that during Christmas many will allow Christ to be born in their hearts.
- Give thanks for the joy and family reunions that Christmas brings.
- Give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world, especially in rural and high density locations in the Church of the Province of Central Africa.



### VIVIENNE TRAVELS TO TASMANIA

The high points of Vivienne For's visit to the Tasmania Committee meeting in Launceston are detailed below:

- Started the day with a Eucharist in Holy Trinity, led by Alan Bulmer.
- Election of Committee members - nominations were put forward for those present. To be ratified by Fr. John Deane.
  - Chair - Fr Warwick Cuthbertson
  - Secretary - Tim Swifte (as well as Committee Liaison Officer and Speaker's Coordinator)
  - Deputy Chair - Alan Bulmer
- Dates were set for next year's meetings with the first in February, most likely in Hobart, with an official invitation to the Bishop to attend.

Some items in the general meeting:

- Synod went well. Promotional folders were well received. Brad Chapman's presentation was excellent with CMS commenting that he stole the show.
- Youth Ambassador Program - in consultation with Brad to arrange for a young person (18-25 years) to go on ABM's PNG Pilgrimage and afterwards, to represent ABM on a speaking tour. Interviews to be conducted and Holy Trinity and ABM will share the costs. Designed to capture more young supporters.

*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>Grafton</i>	<i>Helen Newton</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>

#### 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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