



SUNDAY 21st Jan 2017
Third Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome to our worship this morning. Children are especially welcome. We do hope that you will find the worship uplifting and that your relationship with Jesus Christ is enriched through it. We seek to be a church that loves God, our local community and each other, in the same loving way that Christ loves us. Please join us for morning tea after the service. If you have any questions about what we do here or about the Christian Faith in general I would be happy to make time to discuss them or any other issues with you. Gluten free wafers are available for Communion, if you require these please speak to the service leader.

Prayer of the Day:

Bountiful God,
through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin,
to believe the good news,
and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom:
teach us, like Christ's first apostles,
to hear the call to discipleship,
and, forsaking old ways,
to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dates for the Diary:

Bunnings BBQ at Bibra Lake: 3rd February and 24th February
(Spearwood)

New 2 You Sale: 3rd February 9.00 - 1.00pm (Hilton)

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVINGS

Please pray for

- Maryvonne Neighbour, Lauren Treadgold, Maria Edwards and Marie Baddock as they prepare for Baptism and/or Confirmation or Reception into the Anglican Church on 28th January .
- New 2 You Sale on 3rd February
- BBQ at Bunnings on 3rd February
- Those being priested at St Georges cathedral on 24th February
- All enjoying celebrations for Australia Day on Friday and those becoming Australian Citizens.

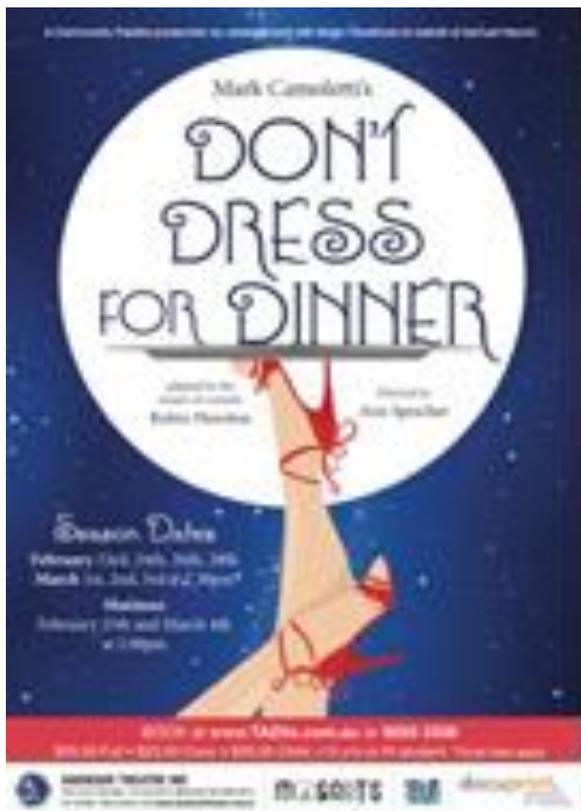
THEATRE DATE CHANGE!

Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control the Harbour Theatre production of 'Don't Dress For Dinner' will now be on 22nd February.

Tickets \$20 available from Lesley Ayres 9337 2212

WARNING:

Contains some coarse language and sexual references.



Bishop Kate Visit Next Sunday

Bishop Kate will be joining us next Sunday for Services at Hilton and Spearwood. As there is to be a Baptism/Confirmation and Reception into the Anglican Church at Spearwood during the 10.30 service we will need to leave Hilton very soon following the service at Hilton for Bishop Kate to meet with the candidates before the service at Spearwood.

There will be light refreshments following the service at Spearwood and an opportunity to meet with Bishop Kate, if any of Hilton Parishioners would like to join us at Spearwood for the reception at 11.45 they will be very welcome.

St Paul - the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to organise a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and it replied, 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced him that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name by which history has recognised him, Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East,

largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially his death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing. He's not always easy to follow. Even the New Testament admits that: 'there are some things (in his letters) hard to understand' (2 Peter 3:16). But at the same time he gave the new faith a foundation and credibility which have stood it well down the centuries.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. He was, of course, a man of his time and culture, in days when women were disregarded in terms of status and leadership.

But read his letters, and see how large a role women play in them and how much scope he gave them to lead and teach in the Church. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

This Weeks Readings:
 Jonah 3.1-10, Psalm 62.5-12, 1 Corinthians 7.29-31, Mark 1.14-20,
Next Weeks Readings:
 Deuteronomy 18, 15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

SPEARWOOD								
Date	Welcome	Reader	Prayer	Sacristan	LPM&LA	M/Tea	Musician	Counters
21st Jan	Merv	Merv June	Maxine	Colleen	Colleen June	Len	N/A	
28th Jan	Len	Ann Audrey	Bernard	Lorraine	Lorraine Len	Bernard	N/A	
Contact Details								
Priest: Revd Debbie May					Parish Wardens			
Mobile: 0473 368 268					June Caunt: 9434 2745			
Email: revd.debbie@gmail.com					Maxine Smith: 0417 992 798			
15 Mell Rd, Spearwood WA 6163								