

## **Rev Glenn Ingram - Minister's Message**

### **PENTECOST AND BEYOND**

As a young Christian in the early 1970's I was moving in circles where the conversation of a few revolved around terms like 'The anointing of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, slain in the Spirit, speaking in tongues', and some time later 'laughing in the Spirit.' I was very impressionable but nonetheless some of it seemed like 'fads' to me. However, while I was caught up in some of these experiences, at the same time I was struggling to understand it. So, I went to ask one of my lecturers. Without being negative in any way he simply said something to the effect that it was important for me to grow in God's word and seek God's understanding in my life.

However, the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts is an intriguing event with tongues of fire, disciples speaking in the languages of other people and Peter bursting forth with that first sermon. While it has not happened to me in the same way I've certainly known people who do have what they call a prayer language and don't display the judgmentalism I have also felt from others.

Still, as I look at Scripture and grow in God's Word I find an important theme: one which you may remember encourages us to ask what it means to live as Easter people today. What does it mean to be born of the Spirit? How important are our choices? What does it mean for us to abide? Is pruning about being broken? How do I overcome the temptations and 'pulls' of our culture and world which tries to shape us in a specific and acceptable mould? Yes, how can we face a world which in some ways is becoming more and more anti-Christian?

When I reflect on Pentecost, part of it says to me, "This is where we are going to find the fire and passion and courage and wisdom and faith to do the things God will be calling us to do. Up until Easter we see somewhat blind, scared disciples. Then at Easter they were astonished, overwhelmed and elated disciples. But wait for it! This is what will happen as we abide in the vine. After Easter the spiritual depth and strength to face what they would face in the world came to them as they abided in that living relationship. As Jesus said, 'I in you and you in Me.'"

Thus the church was born. Believers devoted themselves to one another and the teaching. They stood as God's anointed before the Sanhedrin. Though persecuted they still came away rejoicing in the Lord. They confronted the standard teaching of the age with regard Gentiles. The power of God's Spirit moved men and women who Abided in Christ even though some like Saul had very chequered histories.

The power of God's Spirit lay in the Joy of Abiding. I called this 'Pentecost and Beyond' because we are living in this 'Beyond.' It's where the Church asks, "How will we find the courage to go on?" How can we face this modern world. Perhaps we need to consider more fully the depth of our Abiding in Him.

Blessings Rev Glenn

# CHURCH COUNCIL - NAMBOUR UNITING CHURCH

In the light of a few enquiries, we thought the congregation might like to know how the Church Council functions. The Council meets monthly with the two teams: Pastoral Care & Worship and Property & Compliance meeting at additional times. There is also frequent communication via email. A summary of their work is as follows.

## COVID

Our COVID Advisors are Linda Woodward, Jim Stewart and Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn. We endeavour to keep up to date with any changes via news media and weekly updates from Synod. There is also a weekly Zoom meeting organised by the Synod Covid Team, which we access. We are grateful for the support from the Synod Covid Team especially when changes occur (eg. Easter lockdown). We seek to ensure our Worship services and other activities are held in a COVID Safe manner. This involves preparing Safety Management Plans for all activities (eg. School of Prayer, Car Parking Fundraising) and making changes to the way we do things so we can continue to do them (eg. our flowers on the cross for Easter Sunday). The Qld Govt has mandated that all churches must operate under the COVID Safe Industry Plan for Places of Worship. This covers our worship services and group meetings. Keeping 1.5m distance from others is one of the key requirements along with sanitizing before, and cleaning after, the service and keeping a list of attendees. We are grateful to those who undertake these tasks, otherwise we could not operate.

## COMPLIANCE

As part of striving to ensure the safety of our Congregation, there are a number of safety checks that are completed each year. In January the Church Council held the Annual Compliance meeting which reviews and approves the Church Groups and activities (Adult Fellowship, Tuesday Bible Study, Craft Group, Social Bowls, Church Cleaning, Carparking). Risk assessment and action plans are required to be reviewed and endorsed. Electrical (exit lights, RCDs) and fire extinguisher checks are required 6 monthly, as well as termite checks and pest treatments. We are always striving to find best priced providers for these services.

Annual Lease agreements and evacuation training for Hall hirer groups was completed in January. Sunshine Linus meets twice a month, Nambour Orchid Society, Nambour Floral Art, Wesley Mission monthly. Two Alcoholics Anonymous and three Narcotics Anonymous groups meet weekly. We are glad that our facilities are used by many community groups. ECOllaboration renewed their tenancy of Amity House for 2021.

## MAINTENANCE

This is a big part of our job (something that increases with age!). An area of the church roof requires repair. We have been seeking advice and quotes and this will be a considerable cost. There are constant jobs popping up at Amity House (side deck repairs, worn flooring replacement, electrical repairs, re-painting) and Highview Avenue (trees trimmed, gutters cleaned). We are fortunate that some of these jobs have been undertaken by Keith Giess and our volunteers. The annual Property Maintenance Inspection was completed for the church, hall and Amity House on Wednesday 5th May 2021.

## GARDENS

Thanks to June Ehrenberg for the planning and work she continues in our grounds. Her work reminds us of God's wonderful creation. Thanks also to those folk who assist June in some of the heavier tasks. Also, thanks to our "mower men" who maintain our grounds. Thank you to all those who assist in the maintenance of our property in many ways.

If you would like further information or to apply your special talent to become a member of the Church Council, please contact the Church Council members: Ian and Linda Woodward, Helen Staines, Lyn Metelerkamp, Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn. Graham Robertson, Eva Donaldson, and Bill Rowley.

***Rev Ian has given us a fascinating article on the Geography of Jerusalem in association with Biblical Accounts. We will publish it in three episodes in May, June & July.***

## **Geography and Easter: Part 1 Ian Stehbens**

When the administrator of the Royal Geographical Society, asked me for a short article on Geography and Easter, I was both surprised and stimulated. Never before has anyone asked such a question of me, neither from my network of fellow geographers nor anyone from the fellowship of Christian believers. But the request excited me because of its uniqueness, freshness and significance. There is much that emerges from the intersection of the disciplines of Geography and Biblical scholarship, and it is a two-way street. Here, I define Easter as the events involving the passion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, whom Christians call Jesus Christ as an outcome of these 'Easter Events'.

### **Geography (geopolitics, geology, culture, migration) informs the Easter Story**

The Easter events occur at Jerusalem, where cultures are in collision: occupying Roman forces and Hebrew religious tradition. The Hebrew/Jewish tradition is based on the worship of the God who sets slaves free from oppression in Egypt and that tradition was celebrated culminating in the Passover Meal. It was eaten on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion. From across the eastern Roman Empire at that time, the Jewish Diaspora as well as former slaves from many lands and cultures were wont to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in gratefulness for their freedom. The resultant great gathering demands the oversight of the Roman Governor of Judea who went up to Jerusalem from Tiberias in Galilee. Likewise, the puppet King Herod Antipas had gone up to Jerusalem. The resident High Priest is there as well. These competing authorities generate an ambivalence of authority. Jesus and his disciples have also travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. When Jesus is arrested and brought before the authorities, it is the Jewish religious authorities who initiate his arrest and trial. When they reach consensus, they hand Jesus over to Roman authority, and he is then tried on different grounds by Governor Pilate. Without conviction, he is taken outside the city wall to the vicinity of Golgotha and crucified. Geology of Jerusalem is Cretaceous limestone (Nezer formation) overlain by formations of chalk and chert to the immediate east of the city but immediately to the west the underlying Shivta and Weradim formations of limestone with some dolomite are encountered. Outside the walls of the city, a series of old quarries are found from which the stone to build the walls was extracted. Golgotha (The Place of the Skull) is a feature of this karst landscape and because of caves its external appearance gives rise to its descriptive name. Jesus was not crucified on a hill but rather in an old quarry cum rubbish dump.

While Golgotha is a hill in the background, the "hill of Calvary" that is referred to in Christian story and hymns, is the Hebrew traditional understanding of Jerusalem being a city built on a hill. Thus, the traditional images of a hill with three crosses upon it is quite misleading. Jerusalem is on a plateau 600-700M amsl. The karst geology gives rise to the cultural tradition of burial in caves or crypts. The new tomb in which Jesus' body was placed has a cut limestone rock rolled in place to seal the tomb. Jerusalem region is tectonically active, so it is little surprise that an earthquake is recorded as having occurred the day of his crucifixion. The Gospel of Mark, written in Rome where again the geology is limestone, makes significant comment on the limestone caves and sarcophaguses both in the Easter narrative and in Chapter 5, where the tension between Roman authority including torture (Legion) and Jewish (on the other side of the lake outside Jewish lands) opposition is raised and Jesus is caught in the intersection, exercising healing and restoring authority. All this resonated with the initial readers of Mark's Gospel who were meeting in the underground catacombs among the sarcophaguses in Rome, whilst experiencing Nero's torture and persecution, decades later.

# DAILY PRAYERS

## PENTECOST

Pentecost Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus and is the birth of the Church - this year it falls on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Our Prayers will include the song.

Father, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you. Jesus, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you. Spirit, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you. Let this be your response to your prayers day by day [716 in TIS]

### DAY 1

Let us pray to the Spirit, the Advocate promised by our Lord Jesus.

*Spirit of power*, come to the world with the peace of the risen Christ.

Bring an end to poverty, exploitation and war. Teach us to live gently and kindly with one another.

*Spirit of life*, come and renew the face of the earth. Protect the creatures of land and sea. Provide food and clean water for all people.

*Father, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

### DAY 2

*Spirit of justice*, come with repentance and change to those who hold power, come with courage and hope to those who have no voice. Break down the barriers that keep us apart.

*Spirit of joy*, come to your Church with the peace of the risen Christ. Inspire our leaders and people in worship and loving service. Refresh us for our mission.

*Father, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

### DAY 3

*Spirit of truth*, come with faith to all who are searching for abundant life. Show them the face of Jesus Christ.

Give us words to tell his story in language that everyone can understand.

*Spirit of gentleness*, come to our local communities with kindness and generosity. Teach us how to forgive and how to be forgiven in our homes, workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods.

*Jesus, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

### DAY 4

*Spirit of care*, come with power to all who serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Multiply the resources of our caring services as they bring healing, transformation and hope to people in need.

*Spirit of healing*, come with wholeness to those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. Lift them up out of pain and sorrow and give them peace and strength.

*Jesus, we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

## DAY 5

*Spirit of forgiveness*, Come and fill us with love and compassion so we see the other person's side and can forgive in your name.

*Spirit of blessing* Come and help us see where we can make a difference and be a blessing to others in your name.

*Spirit we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

## DAY 6

*Spirit of wisdom*, come and teach everyone who is searching for the truth. Shine on our path as we make our daily choices. Fight for us when our strength fails.

*Spirit of the risen Lord*, come to all who have died in the faith of Jesus Christ. Bring all your saints to resurrection life. Make us holy and keep us faithful to the end.

*Spirit we adore you, Lay our lives before you, How we love you*

## DAY 7

Lord Jesus Christ, gloriously risen from the dead, we praise you for pouring out your Spirit on your Church to remind us of everything you have said to us. Do for us, we pray, all we have asked in your name, so that God may be glorified and the Good News made known in all the earth, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE**

This land on which we live and worship is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people, traditional custodians under God of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland.

We pay our respects and pray for their elders and all their descendants. We are thankful that we can share with them in our community and nation.

We reaffirm our commitment to care for the land and participate in the reconciling journey, for God requires this of us.

### **Pastoral Care Ministry**

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747  
Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

### **Nambour Congregation Chairperson**

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

### **Church Council Officers**

Ian Woodward - Chair  
Helen Staines - Secretary  
Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer  
Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn  
Property & Compliance

**Church & Office:** 5441 1135  
37 Coronation Drive NAMBOUR QLD 4560  
PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: open most Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

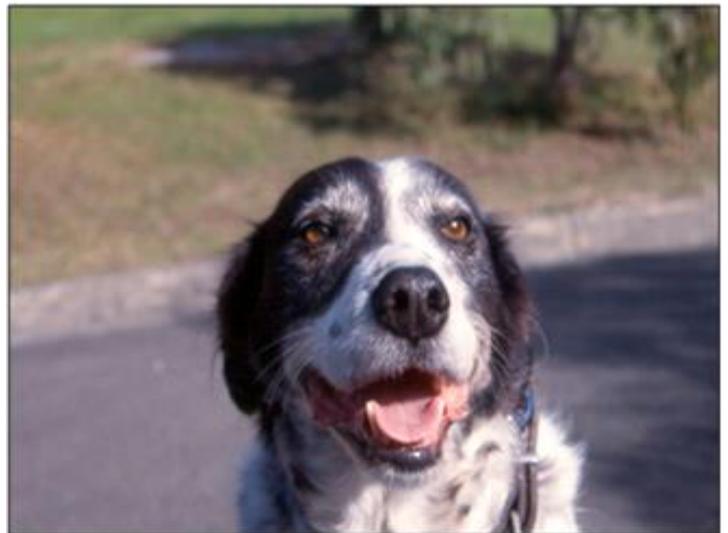
## Devotion, through a Dog's Eyes:

I have often wondered whether, through the eyes of a dog, we humans appear as gods! "Man's best friend" has certainly provided faithful and loyal devotion to their human masters. In fact, from the point of view of devotion, the humble pooch may have proved a more devoted worshipper than we ourselves ever have!

The classic story of devotion to my mind is the well-known work by Henry Lawson, "The Ballad of the Drover". In this famous story, the drover's dog remains faithful to his master, even to death. When the drover tried unsuccessfully to cross a flooded stream, the dog forfeited his own life in an attempt to rescue his master.

**"The faithful dog a moment  
Lies panting on the bank,  
Then plunges through to current  
To where his master sank.  
And round and round in circles  
He fights with failing strength,  
Till, gripped by wilder waters,  
He fails, and sinks at length."**

Henry Lawson, "The Ballad of the Drover", in *Bush Ballads of Australia*, Selections by David Bromiley



Old Bill, faithful companion to Sister Mary Farrell, 2003

"Devotion" is essentially the giving of oneself to an object outside of ourselves. It is a total absorption in the other which demands the totality of what we have to give. We may choose to devote ourselves to a number of things or people. A soldier may be devoted to duty, absolutely committed to fulfil his given orders; a nurse likewise commits herself to her duty, standing watch over patients during the long lonely night hours; or parents, sacrificing their own needs and pleasures, devote themselves to the task of bringing up their children.

Continued page 7

Continued from page 6

Of course, devotion may be misdirected. One may devote oneself to a hobby to the point that it absorbs all of one's time and resources and energies. Another may devote his or herself to a sports car, a yacht, a beautiful horse, or even to one's own home. When the passion so possesses us that that nothing or no-one else in life matters, our devotion has become an obsession. We have created our own idol.

Obviously, the highest devotion a human person could have is that of devotion to God. Yet, even here, the devotion may not be completely pure. One must ask whether we are devoting ourselves to God for the sake of God alone, or because of the possibility of some personal gain from the transaction. The contemporary "prosperity cult" attracts followers with the possibility of some reward, whether material or "spiritual". People may worship God simply in order to "get a blessing" for themselves.

The Hebrew Psalmist expressed his passionate devotion to God:

O God, You are my God, I shall seek you earnestly; my soul thirsts for you... in a dry and thirsty land." The absorption of God involved the totality of the person, their "soul": the completeness of their being, mind, heart, will and passion. Anything less is imperfect. As the sage put it,

***"Oh my Lord! If I worship You from fear of Hell, burn me in Hell, and if I worship You from hope of Paradise, exclude me from it; but if I worship You for Your own sake, then withhold not from me Your Eternal Beauty".***

True devotion is the giving of ourselves totally to that Transcendent Other, that Ultimate Being (for whom we reserve the term "God"), who is above and beyond us, and who alone is worthy of such devotion.

Rev Graham Warne

=====

### **DIRECT DEBIT/TRANSFER**

To make your offering using DIRECT DEBIT/TRANSFER you will need to go to your bank or **use the internet banking service**. You will need the following information:

Bank: ANZ

BSB: 014010

Account No: 286751378

Thank you all for being generous people. May your giving become the power of love in the world.

### **NeXus**

The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation. While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace, we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other. As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened, then sent out again for a missional purpose.

In times such as these, this copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.

# DAILY READINGS

## MAY 2021

Saturday, May 1, 2021: Mark 4:30-32  
Sunday, May 2, 2021: **Fifth Sunday of Easter**; John 15:1-8  
Monday, May 3, 2021: Galatians 5:16-26  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021: James 3:17-18  
Wednesday, May 5, 2021: John 14:18-31  
Thursday, May 6, 2021: Acts 10:1-34  
Friday, May 7, 2021: Acts 10:34-43  
Saturday, May 8, 2021: Mark 10:42-45  
Sunday, May 9, 2021: **Sixth Sunday of Easter**; John 15:9-17  
Monday, May 10, 2021: 1 Timothy 6:11-12  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021: 1 Timothy 6:13-16  
Wednesday, May 12, 2021: Mark 16:19-20  
Thursday, May 13, 2021: **Ascension of the Lord**; Luke 24:44-53  
Friday, May 14, 2021: Revelation 1:9-18  
Saturday, May 15, 2021: John 16:4-11  
Sunday, May 16, 2021: **Seventh Sunday of Easter**; John 17:6-19  
Monday, May 17, 2021: Philippians 1:3-11  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021: Titus 1:1-9  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021: John 16:16-24  
Thursday, May 20, 2021: 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49  
Friday, May 21, 2021: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57  
Saturday, May 22, 2021: John 7:37-39  
Sunday, May 23, 2021: **Day of Pentecost**; John 15:26-27 & John 16:4b-15  
Monday, May 24, 2021: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021: John 20:19-23  
Thursday, May 27, 2021: Romans 8:1-8  
Friday, May 28, 2021: Romans 8:9-11  
Saturday, May 29, 2021: John 15:18-20, 26-27  
Sunday, May 30, 2021: **Trinity Sunday**; John 3:1-17  
Monday, May 31, 2021: **Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth**; Luke 1:39-57  
Revelation 4:1-8

**CHURCH EMAIL**

**WEBSITE** incl Sunday Worship Service

**FACEBOOK**

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

[nambouruca@gmail.com](mailto:nambouruca@gmail.com)

[nambouruniting.org.au](http://nambouruniting.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church](https://www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church)

[nambouruca.youtube](https://nambouruca.youtube)