

**Welcome to worship at
Holy Trinity, Terrigal**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
20th September 2020**



9.00am – Holy Eucharist

**Presiding and Preaching - Fr Mark Watson
Organist – Sharon Sandstrom**

11.00am – Holy Baptism

BAPTISM

Today we welcome Zane Spears to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at 11am. Welcome too, to mother Sarah, grandmother Kerry and Godparents, families and friends who join in celebrating the wonderful gift of God's love and grace.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE?

Last Sunday, Fr Roy wrote about the cry for freedom from many during the COVID-19 pandemic. At first, protests seemed to be confined to the United States. Now, many here in Australia we are seeing protests using freedom as a support for their actions.

Fr Casey Cole OFM is an American Franciscan friar, priest, writer, and blogger. In one of his YouTube segments (and much of the following material is based on it) he talks about people protesting limits on their freedom like staying indoors, being unable to go to work, seeing their businesses fail, and so on. Pictures of some of the signs tell it all: 'My Body, My Choice Trump 2020', 'Defy Fascist Lockdown', 'Freedom is Essential', 'Don't Use Fear to Steal our Freedom', 'End this Siege Now', 'Give me Freedom or give me COVID-19', 'Jesus is My Vaccine.'

When contrasted with hospital workers, etc., putting their lives at risk to help COVID-19 patients and keep us safe, the sentiments expressed in these signs seem (in Casey Coles' words) "reckless, dangerous and selfish". They also express an ideology that sees freedom as far more individualistic and anarchist than a Christian understanding of freedom. They beg the question, "What does it mean to be free?" Many would answer that the more choices we have, the more free we are.

Fr Cole uses an example of two people both dying of thirst. The first person has a range of options to choose from: motor oil, hydrochloric acid, the liquid inside a lava lamp, a bottle of

Windex, and battery acid. The second person has only one choice: pure clean water. If more choices means more freedom to decide for yourself, the person with the greater range of options is more free. Really? According to this way of thinking, a person on the brink of death from dehydration and given a range of hazardous liquids to drink makes them freer than someone given only a glass of water? Do we want that level of freedom? It sees freedom as matter of quantity. Perfect freedom means unlimited choices. Therefore, anything that removes choices inhibits one's freedom.

Most people are willing to give up some freedoms to live in society: things like agreeing not to murder each other or steal each other's property. But there is only so much one can take – hence we have protests. Being told to wear a mask, to keep social distancing, not being able to go to church, practise social distancing. Isn't one glass of water the better option, given the other choices? We'd want the water even if it is the only choice. Quantity of choices is not the one thing that matters to freedom. Quality also matters. In fact, it may be more important. If you're thirsty, having five, or even a hundred toxic liquids doesn't make you free. You have no freedom to choose the only thing that will quench your thirst!

The person with only one option of water is infinitely more free than the other because he or she has the ability to choose what is good, which is to quench thirst. It is not just about a range of choices. It is about quality of choice. Freedom is not about having unlimited choices and to do what we want, i.e., autonomy that is only concerned about the individual self. It is about the ability to do what is morally right.

We are not completely autonomous, completely independent. Recognising our dependency on God, honouring God by using our resources, including our freedom, leads to a life of peace and justice, loving one's neighbour as oneself, caring for the common

good as God's stewards. The ability to be free comes from doing what is good and right.

So, back to the protesters. We are living in a pandemic, something we haven't seen for 100 years. It's easily transmitted and it's dangerous. We don't have a cure, a vaccine. We have the option of limiting our movements and foregoing certain activities, to slow its spread. We keep safe by limiting contact with others, by wearing masks, avoiding crowds. This has limited our options at times – not going to concerts, the gym, restaurants, to church. Some say that makes us “not free.”

Christians see things differently. We are called to be a people concerned for the common good of all which includes building a society of peace and justice where the vulnerable are protected and the sick taken care of. To best do that may mean staying home to save lives. We have that option to do good and what will best serve our neighbour. We are free in the proper understanding of the word. We may not have the most options, but we have the best options. That will mean inconvenience for many, for others, financial difficulty. People are hurting and want to return to normal. We want some control in our lives. Please remember it's not just about you. It's not just about your individual rights. As a society, a people of God, we must always consider how our acting affects others and do what is best for all. No-one has the right to be reckless and to harm others. Being a Christian doesn't always mean getting what I want when I want. It's not about what we want but what God wants. The essence of Christianity is freedom to sacrifice ourselves so that others may live.

Fr Mark

Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2.8-9

Prayer of the Day

Loving and righteous God,
your boundless generosity exceeds
all that we can desire or deserve,
and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first:
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,
that we may be free to love and serve others,
and in your service may find our true reward;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from Jonah

Chapter 3 verse 10 to Chapter 4 verse 11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 145.1-8

1 I will exalt you, O God my king:
I will bless your name for ever and ever.

**2 Every day will I bless you:
and praise your name for ever and ever.**

3 Great is the Lord, and wonderfully worthy to be praised: his greatness is past searching out.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another: and declare your mighty acts.

5 As for me, I will be talking
of the glorious splendour of your majesty:
I will tell the story of your marvellous works.

6 All people shall speak of the power of your terrible deeds: and I will proclaim your greatness.

7 Their lips shall flow with the remembrance
of your abundant goodness: they shall shout for joy at your
righteousness.

**8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate:
slow to anger and of great goodness.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians
Chapter 1, verses 21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Chapter 20, verses 1-16

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer for those suffering severe illness (adapted from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, p. 692)

Healing Spirit,

we pray for those suffering from serious diseases
and for those who are terminally ill,
and those living with the COVID-19 virus.

We pray for skill and patience for the doctors and nurses who
care for them. We pray that their relatives and friends may be
strengthened and comforted.

May their faith not falter as they support each other through
testing times.

We pray for those engaged in research
that by your inspiration and their skill
the scourges of this generation may be overcome.

Help us to live in your way

and to seek health in body, mind and spirit. **Amen.**

Please pray for

Barb Matthews, Graeme Patterson, Ken Hope, Norm Williams,
Emma Horton, Isobel Hargraves, Gail Lyndon, Jean Jackson,
Marian French, Aaron Lane, Pat Lindsay, Toby Lindsay,
Gloria Townsend, Margaret Willard, Carolyn Gibbs and Cathy Oaks.

Direct Debit details of account:

ASDF Account

Parish of Terrigal

BSB: 705-077

Account number: 00040934

Samaritans

We will have our basket for food donations available for those
wishing to bring items. Some suggestions are breakfast cereal,
long life milk, pasta, plus sauce, soap, toothpaste, soup,
sardines, baked beans, spaghetti in a tin, creamed corn and chips.

'Whispers of Love' Meditation

Reflection this week:

Keep me close to your heart,
where I know I belong.
Direct me to you, my Centre,
where I find peace, harmony, satisfaction
guidance, all I need to travel the path of life well.

Prayerfully Reverend Ann

Women's Fellowship

Approval has been given for the Women's Fellowship meetings to recommence and will meet the second Monday of each month at 1pm in the church foyer. All women are welcome to join us then.

"We welcome the summer and the glorious blessings of Light.

We are rich with light; we are loved by the sun.

Let us empty our hearts into the brilliance.

Let us pour our darkness into the glorious, forgiving light.

For this loving abundance let us give thanks and offer our joy.

Amen" – A Poem from Michael Leunig's book 'The Prayer Tree'.

Prayer of the Week

Loving Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Ordinary Sunday 25 [Pentecost 16]
– Sunday 20 September 2020

- Exodus 16.2-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1. 1-20, [21-30]; Matthew 20.1-16

Even though God was already providing for the Israelites as they were journeying out of Egypt, the people nonetheless complained, remembering their enslavement as an idyllic time when they sat by fleshpots eating their fill of bread. So, having provided for their needs, God now provides for the ungrateful people's wants, sending them manna in the morning and quails in the evening. God gives freely to sustain life in a foretaste of the Eucharist. 'In Exodus, through food and water, the people are transformed, as they grow from adolescence to adulthood – into being God's people, obedient to him.' – Chris Haslam

- Pray that we will be committed to sharing God's generosity throughout the world.
- Give thanks for all those who generously care for others, especially remembering Anglicare and all other church caring agencies throughout Australia.

Text: Robert McLean

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Parish Directory

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Parish Email – admin@terrigalanglican.org.au

Website - www.terrigalanglican.org.au

Rector – The Reverend Canon Mark Watson – 4365 1374 or 0434 431 400

Email - cyprian7@bigpond.com

Associate Priests

The Reverend Ann Watson – 4365 1065 or 0427 135 771

The Reverend Roy Hazlewood – 0418 290 192

The Reverend Dr Richard Harvey – 0422 109 262

The Reverend Bruce McAteer - 0417 229 296

Parish Executive

Neil Ewer (0412 640 477) – Rector’s Warden

Terry Rowe (4365 0430) - People’s Warden

Kyara Newport (0400 994 779) - People’s Warden

Parish Secretary - Kyara Newport (0400 994 779)

Parish Treasurer - Terry Rowe (4365 0430)

Parish Ministries

Parish Organist - Chris Sillince - 0422 225 849

Sacristan and Mission Secretary - Coralie Taylor

Messy Church Convenor - Rhonda Kiss – 4363 5001

Pastoral Care - contact - 4365 1115

Trinity Band & Cursillo – Libby Harvey – 0431 315 085

Safety Officer - Mike Keaney

Copyright Compliance Officer – Terry Rowe

Parish Bookshop – Kyara Newport

Women’s Fellowship – Pam Flegg – 4384 5326

Market Day Co-ordinator – Ian Wolstenholme

Parish Opportunity Shop

Carolyn Shields / Christine De Gans - 4365 1280

**The Op Shop is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm
and each Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm**