

## **A Devotion for the week leading to the 31st of May 2020**

*This service is written for Stretton Park and McDonald Wing in Maffra, Laurina Lodge in Heyfield and Royal Freemason's in Sale, but with the intention of being available for any who are interested for their private use.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is the week leading up to Pentecost so the readings are about the Holy Spirit.

Today, from Psalm 104 we read : How many are your works, O Lord. The earth is full of your creatures. When you send your Spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth. I will sing to the Lord all my life, may my meditation be pleasing to Him as I rejoice in the Lord.

**HYMN No. 22** - All things bright and beautiful

*You can read the words to yourself, or out loud. If you remember the tune well enough you can sing it yourself. You can, of course sing just the first, or the first and last verses.*

### **PRAYER**

We thank you, O God, for your wonderful creation, for all the good things you give, and for the natural wonders we have seen in our lives. We thank you for the countryside we have lived in and for the animals and pets we have had. Forgive us, Lord, if there have been times when we have not cared for the land or animals the way we should have, or if we had taken this wonderful world for granted. This we pray in Jesus name, Amen

### **BIBLE READINGS -**

I Corinthians 12 : 3 - 13 St Paul writes about the different types of spiritual gifts and says they all come from the one Spirit.

John 7 : 37 - 39 Jesus says, If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink and streams of living water will flow within him. By that, He meant the Spirit who was to come.

**HYMN No.27** - I am so glad that Jesus loves me

### **REFLECTION**

In today's reading from first Corinthians, St. Paul writes about the different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the emphasis of his message is that, no matter what we are able to do by the grace of God, it is the same Spirit who gives all of these different abilities. In his letters, St Paul teaches that nobody is more valuable because they are able to do something that looks more impressive. Nobody is less valuable because they are 'back stage' rather than 'out front'. Any minister worth their salt will tell you that the Church is the people, all the people, no matter what their position. If you are a Christian, you are part of the Church, just as important a part as anyone else.

If you believe in Jesus, then those words from the John reading apply to you too. Streams of living water - that is the Holy Spirit - flow in and from those who believe. Generally speaking, these days we don't see those miracles of the Holy Spirit that are reported in the life of the early Church. What we do see today are lives changed, faith strengthened, and believers enabled to meet challenges that they did not think they could have met without the strengthening power of God.

For us, the strengthening of the Holy Spirit gives us the assurance of our faith. The Spirit helps us to know, deep down, that we are God's people and that God cares for us. We are also strengthened in our faith, to be able to pray for those things that concern us.

Have you suddenly had a thought that a particular person or situation needs your attention? You may respond with prayer, or a phone call or letter, or in some other way that God seems to be calling you. No matter what we think we can or can't do, God is always there, ready to prompt and inspire us. God does not call us to things that we can't do. God calls us to be the best people we can be, where we are, so we should always be ready to do the best we can do, where we are. That might be phoning or writing to children, or grandchildren, old friends or neighbours, or whoever God brings to mind. Following God's call might just mean trying to be cheerful and helpful where you are, or showing appreciation for things that other people do for you. All of these things make the world a better place, so in doing these things you are helping to work towards the better world that God intends.

**HYMN No.4** - Have thine own way

### **PRAYER**

God our Father, we pray for the world. It is your world, created by you. We pray for the success of those who try to use the earth's resources wisely and well, for farmers, miners and government authorities. We pray too, for all those people who are trying to make the world a better place. We ask your blessing on health care and emergency workers of all types who are doing what they can for others in need. We ask your care for all the school teachers and students who are going back to school in Victoria at this time. Lastly, we pray for ourselves, that we may be aware of you promptings and respond in the way that is right for us.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever, AMEN

**HYMN No 3** - Fill thou my life, O Lord, my God, in every part with praise.

### **The BLESSING**

May the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit comfort you, guide you and strengthen you.

And may the blessing of the almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

be upon you and remain with you always, Amen