



September 5th 2021



The Compassionate Father and His TWO lost sons

A note from the Rector:

This Sunday is *Father's Day* and, whilst not all of us celebrate are fathers and whilst not all of us celebrate our fathers, as God's children we share the most amazing and generous Father – a Father who, when we were lost, went searching for us until He found us, and, when we were dead, made us alive.

And so this week I thought that it would be appropriate to look once more at the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*, though, as you'll hear in my talk, this parable might be better known as the *Parable of the Prodigal FATHER* or *The Parable of the Compassionate Father and His TWO lost sons*.

This will be my last sermon for about a month for, at the start of the year, I booked in Denis Kirkaldy to do a locum whilst I was away on annual leave. Though, as we are in lockdown, I am now only taking two week's annual leave so next week Denis and I will do a double act and then we'll see what happens after that.

Whilst we are unable to travel and to have visitors in our homes, I do hope and pray that this Father's Day may be a very special day for you.

Allan

This week's Zoom links:

Sunday Morning Church via Zoom 9.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89163303726?pwd=MjRxbW5HNWU2OVIEYWlrVzZ5TW9DQT09>

(Meeting ID: 891 6330 3726, Passcode: 687242, or dial 8015 6011)

The recording of the service will be available on our website at **noon on Sunday**.

Tuesday's Prayer meeting 9.00am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/787794144>

(Meeting ID: 787 794 144 Passcode: 813312)

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (NIV)

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

11 ... "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' **20** So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **27** 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29** But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

MISSIONARY PRAYER POINTS

Our link missionaries: Brownings, Buchanans, David & Jenny, and Kyngdons

**Andrew Buchanan and Abi Tandiseru with Timothy – Toraja, Indonesia
Currently on home assignment in Australia**

Thankfully COVID case numbers in Indonesia are declining. It is less clear what is happening in our area in Toraja (the local government is not being transparent about figures) but at the least it has not become a crisis. **Indonesia continues to shut its borders to foreigners and we do not anticipate a departure any time soon.** Abi has had her second vaccination this week.

A new semester begins online

Andrew received his teaching load for this semester in the New Testament stream of the masters program. The very first subject he taught last year, *Reading the New Testament through the Eyes of Torajan Culture*, has come around again as the three-semester cycle begins again. (Students can join each semester but start at whichever semester the program is up to.) Since that was more or less his Ph.D. thesis topic (with a focus on Hebrews), he is looking forward to teaching it again at the end of October.

His other subject, starting next week, is new. It is an overview of the New Testament Letters, from Romans to Jude. Over the three semesters they cover all the New Testament books. Andrew's overall aim is that they are able to understand the letters and apply them as God's word. They are no doubt familiar with many verses and passages from the letters, but much less familiar with the letters as wholes, and with how the apostles draw on the Old Testament story to explain Jesus and his significance.

Give thanks

- For Abi's second vaccination.
- For a reduction in case numbers and continued progress with vaccinations in Indonesia.
- For continued opportunities for fellowship and ministry in Toraja via the internet.

Please pray

- For the six students in Andrew's class, that they will be motivated and that Andrew will teach well.
- For movement on Abi's registration with the Indonesian embassy which is the first step in registering Timothy as an Indonesian citizen.

Giving to the work of the Parish

Thanks to everyone who has continued to contribute financially to the work of the Parish at this time. To give online use the following account:

Kincumber Anglican Parish, BSB: 705077 (Indue), Acct No: 00040910

PARISH PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for those in need: Remi Carnaby, Nathan (Skehan), Robyn Small, Mavis Vyner, Maggie (Dibley), Vera and Doris, Betty Greenfield, Michael Sanderson and Clarice Grose.
- Pray for our Bishops - Peter, Charlie and Sonia. Pray for their leadership: that they may correctly handle and preach the word of truth so that they may lead our Diocese into all truth.
- Pray for wisdom for the leaders of the Anglican Church of Australia, Gafcon Australia and our Diocese as they respond to the crisis within the Australian Anglican Church.
- Pray for our State and Federal leaders, for wisdom and good decision making, as they try to manage the current outbreak and as the federation of states look towards opening national and international borders according to a pre-agreed plan.
- Pray for our frontline workers and, in particular, our paramedics and hospital workers as COVID patient numbers increase and as the expectation that numbers will continue to increase as we begin to let COVID run its course from mid-October.
- Continue to pray for those businesses and workers in our area who are suffering, more and more, and who can see little or no hope for their future.
- Give thanks for our Heavenly Father who searched for us until He found us, so that He could successfully restore our broken relationship with Him and then welcome us home.
- Pray for Christian fathers – that they may look to their Heavenly Father in how to parent their own children.
- Pray for revival – that, in His grace, God may pour out His Spirit on the people of our nation and our world through this pandemic. Pray that the Holy Spirit may empower God's people throughout the world, including us, so that others may be drawn to join us in worshipping our God.

Parish Contacts



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