



ST PETER'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CREMORNE

THE COCK CROWS



FAREWELL NEWSLETTER TO TIM & SARAH ST QUINTIN & THE FAMILY

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 21 January was the final day of Tim St Quintin's ministry at St Peter's, and we hope you will enjoy reading his sermon and his warden's thanks given in the church - followed by a collection of photos taken at Morning Tea in the David Armstrong Room. Tim and Sarah are on annual leave until they move to the parish of Cudgegong Valley in Bathurst Diocese. He will be installed as rector there in the Church of St John the Baptist in Mudgee on Saturday 13 April.

FAREWELL SERMON | 21 January 2024

What to say on an occasion like this?

I am tempted to download all the things I wish to remind you of: lists of dos and don'ts; of encouragements and warnings; of all the things I haven't got around to saying or doing; and all I want you to know about Christ, to trust about him, to share with others...

It is not unlike the temptation of a parent as your child leaves home for first time (we've been through that with our 2 boys and are about to go through it with Kate). There is that similar temptation to download all my unfinished parenting and life lessons, rather than to trust the character formed in Many years ago, I heard of a Christian father farewelling his children simply

with these words: "Remember who you are; Remember whose you are." That has always stuck with me. So today – as I farewell you – this is my farewell message:

Remember who you are; Remember whose you are.

We need to remember, for it's so easy to forget. Our social circles, the wider society, even one another, so easily drive us to define ourselves by: our age, where we live, our job or career, our physical attributes, our financial status, our family, our sexuality, how smart we are (or think we are), our perceived success – or that of our loved ones. We readily define ourselves by these parameters and compare ourselves to others to determine our relative worth. We promote ourselves (or our families) to feel valued by those around.

Whilst all these factors may shape our personality, our circumstances, and our perspective on ourselves and the world, they don't ultimately define who we are. And if we look to them to define us – it becomes another form of religion - either requiring us to try harder and harder to be acceptable, or making us smug and self-righteous because we think we are. You are not ultimately who your community think you are, or even who you think you are, but who God, by his grace, says you are.

As our creator, God alone has the authority to define us and he attributes each of us with great value and worth. The Bible tells us we are all: Created in his image (Gen 1:27) and that he has compassion on all he has made (Ps 145:9); that we are far more valuable than the flowers of the field or birds of the air (Matt 6:25-30; 10:31); we are known by him (Psalm 139:1) and made for his glory (e.g. Isa 43:7). This is true for all people, yet for Christians – those who have come to put our faith in Jesus Christ and know him as our Lord and our Saviour, our identity is greater still. This is who you are:

*Yet to all who did receive [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God –
¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13*

You are dearly loved children of the Almighty God of the universe; you have been rescued, forgiven, set free, made holy. We are citizens of heaven

with the sure and certain promise of Christ's presence with us now, and eternal life in the Father's home.

Remember who you are!

And remember whose you are!

You are his, the "sheep of his pasture" (Ps 100:3). You are not your own, you were bought at the great cost of the suffering and death of our Lord (1 Cor 6:19). We are called to live for him, not ourselves; to seek his honour and glory, not our own. Yet, counter-intuitively, even this is for our ultimate good as well:

Jesus promised: 'Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' (*Matt 10:39*). This is the freedom that the gospel brings.

Society says and we say to ourselves: "If we do, we achieve, we obey...then we are accepted and get the things we want."

The Gospel says: "Through Christ, we are accepted and loved (this is who and whose we are) therefore we obey - not motivated by fear and insecurity but in grateful joy; not to earn the things we want from God but to get more and more of God, to delight in him, to take after him, to rejoice in his glory."

So remember who you are: a dearly loved child of God through faith in Jesus.

And remember whose you are: living for him each and every moment, and not ourselves.

Now, I say that to each of you individually, but I also want to say to you collectively - as the church of St Peter's Cremorne:

Remember who you are; remember whose you are.

This is not the same church I came to serve seven years ago: It has been a privilege to conduct well over 30 funerals for those who sat in these pews (and many more besides), and it has been a great encouragement to see how God has brought others in to take their place. It has been an immense joy to see how God has grown our sense of community and has deepened and strengthened our faith and understanding. A particular delight has been to see God's work in this through our Bible studies and more recently in our Table Groups.

Throughout its life, St Peter's Cremorne has, no doubt, seen many seasons as parishioners and rectors have come and gone. And yet, the fundamental identity of St Peter's has not

changed: who we are, and whose we are, collectively, as Christ's church.

It can be tempting to look to identify ourselves primarily by our distinctives - what makes us different from others - whether or not those distinctives are core to who we are.

As a church, we might be tempted to define ourselves primarily by our style of service, our type of music, our building, our history, or our minister. We might look to these things for our value and significance. Especially in a time of transition (like a Rector leaving), we might cling to these things even more staunchly for fear of losing them. But the things that are core to us and every church are unchanging - because they are God given.

At my commencement service here, the Archbishop reminded me who you are and whose you are:

My brother Tim, at your ordination you were exhorted in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to remember the dignity of high office and charge to which you were called: that is to say, to be a messenger, watchman, and steward of our Lord; to teach and forewarn, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep who are scattered abroad, and for his children, who are surrounded by temptation in this world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your mind how great a treasure is committed to your care, For they are the sheep of Christ, whom he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. This church and congregation whom you must serve is his bride and body.

That is who you are, and whose you are, that is where your value and significance lies: St Peter's Cremorne is one of God's great treasures, his sheep for whom Christ died, his bride. And he cares deeply, protectively, even jealously, for his church.

There is, of course, consistency between who you are individually and who you are as a church collectively, but in the various challenges that have come along in my ministry here, and however imperfectly I have exercised it, I have found it helpful to reread these words: to remind me who and whose you are; to drive me to pray

for the great responsibility entrusted to me; and to love and care for you as God's great treasure. This reminder of who and whose you are has encouraged me to persevere with people I have found more challenging (no one here, of course); to love you; and to serve you - not primarily because I like you (although mercifully that's generally the case) - but because God treasures you and Christ has made you his bride. As much as I have sought to exercise my ministry for your sake, which I have, I seek first to do it for Christ's sake, and for his glory.

At times this perspective and responsibility has compelled me to make hard decisions, to preach necessary but unpopular truths; sometimes, I confess, I perhaps shied away from some of those things I should have because I didn't treasure you as I should have and preferred to keep people happy. Wherever I have been faithful to this charge, it is only through God's help, by his spirit. Whilst I have been entrusted with this responsibility, this truth ought to also impact not only how we see ourselves but how we relate to one another in love and service.

As you pray for a new Rector, and the nominators work with the bishop to find a new Rector, my prayer is not that you seek firstly someone who might be able to maintain our distinctives, but rather that you seek first someone who will treasure you as God does, and is therefore committed to being:

a messenger, watchman, and steward of our Lord; to teach and forewarn, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep who are scattered abroad, and for his children, who are surrounded by temptation in this world, that they (you) may be saved through Christ for ever.

Remember Whose you are:

St Peter's has not been my church, to shape it according to my preferences.

Neither is it your church, to shape it to your preferences.

It is Christ's church, bought by his blood, existing to build his kingdom, for his glory – and that is something so much better.

Friends – it has been a privilege to love and serve God's great treasure – you.

Remember who you are! Remember whose you are! And rejoice in that together.

All glory be to Christ. Amen.

FAREWELL AND THANKS FROM THE RECTOR'S WARDEN



The Rector's Warden, Anna Reed-Stephenson

In speaking to parishioners who have been here since you arrived, I have heard the following:

- You have delivered on what you promised during your initial interview to bring a youthful vigour to St Peter's. You adapted to the more traditional Eucharist service and kept your sermons to 15 minutes, most of the time.
- You have shown yourself as a knowledgeable and capable teacher enlivening Bible studies with humour.
- Sarah is always a warm and lively person, supportive of Tim, and a great contributor to both strategy sessions and hosting, and oh those scones!
- We've been privileged to have loved and known the St Quintins.
- Tuesday morning services and morning tea have been growing in both numbers and community - offering an opportunity for many from all over to come to worship together who aren't able to come on Sundays.
- While Tim and Sarah have been here we have seen the church grow in new members and

people continue to come. We have also seen the church grow in love and support of one another.

The comments above are just a few things people have passed on to me.

Tim - you are called Reverend, Rector, Soldier, Padre, Father, husband, dad, son and brother.
Sarah - mother, teacher, wife, hostess, daughter-in-law.

You have both played the roles of handyman / handywoman, cleaner and protector.

For me, though, the most treasured role is Friend. Through our friendship I have seen your

- Compassion for each of us
- Deep faith in God's Word
- Hospitality encouraged and practised
- Wisdom of lived experiences
- Willingness to share your talents to support God's kingdom
- Your tears when you feel discouraged
- Support for those who are discouraged
- Openness to listen and discuss many views
- Tolerance when persecuted
- Patience through change
- Passion for mission
- Dedication through all trials
- Ability to see humour in so many ways.

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgives you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Thank you for your service, your love and dedication to St. Peter's and the work of our Lord and Father.

Your new parish will be blessed as we have, as will you all. We will pray for you as I know you will pray for each of us at St. Peter's. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Anna Reed-Stephenson

PRAYER OFFERED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EUCHARIST



The Rector and Edwina Waddy in the porch.

Gracious Heavenly Father, today we give thanks for the ministry of our rector Tim as he completes 7 years of service to You at St Peter's; we thank you for his willingness to absorb and learn our worship and liturgy, we thank you for his care and attention to the parish family, his visits to our sick and elderly, for teaching us to trust, teaching us to love and teaching us to live following Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, we thank Sarah, Will, Callum and Kate for supporting Tim, acknowledging that their love and care are the strengths which have enabled Tim to shepherd his flock at St Peter's. And St Peter's has been privileged to join them in supporting Tim's important chaplaincy role with the Australian Defence Force served both here and overseas. With his family beside him, Tim gave us and the ADF all that he had to offer with sacrifice and love.

As we farewell you and your family today, we offer blessings as you move to Cudgegong Valley in April - and we pray now and in the future that this new journey will bring you, and the family, great joy and fulfilment.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Edwina Waddy



Mary Layton, wife of Warden Russ Layton, seen sitting down on the left.



Tim and Sarah cutting the cake.



Anna making a presentation to Tim & Sarah



The splendid chocolate sponge cake which was eagerly sampled by all present such that there was only a minute corner left. A sure sign of a very popular cake – which was offered in addition to many plates of donated Morning Tea delicacies



Lizzie and Graham St Quintin and Tim. Thanks to Tim's parents Lizzie and Graham who kindly made and served all the tea and coffee at the Morning Tea – and then led the washing up and tidying up.



Jenny St Quintin, Tim's sister, and Noreen Bernie



Ken Bernie and Michael Badger



Will St Quintin and Kate St Quintin



Bronwyn Lihou and Daphne Dobbyn



Jenny Davey and Tim Moon



Lorrie Brown and Christine Morgan



Tom Tierney and Kevin Matheson



Pamela and her grandmother, who is visiting Pamela and her family from Venezuela



Jenny Holmes and Susan Upton



Welcome visitors who live locally who have appreciated Tim and Sarah's ministry.



Prabhu and Sharon Boddu attended the Morning Tea. Prabhu is a regular livesteamer. They are pictured at Christmas with Sharon wearing her sari.



Nate, who with Maggie runs the Neutral Bay Kindergarten in our Memorial Hall, and Helen Matheson, a people's warden.



Peter Smith and Phillip Finnegan

THE OAKS



Deborah Miyashita, the mother of Makito, who is presently serving with the Samurai Project in Tokyo having been a student minister here with Tim.

Following Fr Tim's final service, an informal farewell get-together was arranged at the nearby Neutral Bay Oaks Hotel. This was very well attended by about 50 parishioners and friends over several hours which included lunches and drinks ordered by those present. Tim's family was well represented by both Tim and his wife Sarah, sister Jenny, parents Graham and Lizzie, and children William and Kate. It was a very happy ambience across the generations, tinged by sadness at the imminent departure of Tim and his family, but in the full knowledge that they will be a blessing for the Cudgegong parish. Everybody present took the opportunity to wish them well and to say how much they looked forward to staying in touch, via visits to the Mudgee area and the St Quintins' occasional returns to St Peter's.

Philip Wood | Parish Councillor



Margaret MacNabb and Caroline Bowyer



Helen M, Esme Parker & Ken Bernie at The Oaks

THANK YOU FROM THE WARDENS

Thank you to all who contributed to make Tim and Sarah's Farewell Morning Tea just as they had asked for: those who set up, catered, served, conversed, cleared up or indeed did a little of everything!

Thank you to those who contributed to the farewell gift. The intention is to provide Tim with a cassock-alb for Mudgee and the balance will be put towards their coming trip overseas. Tim and Sarah are planning a holiday before he is installed as rector of Cudgegong Valley in April.

Anna Reed-Stephenson, Russ Layton and Helen Matheson | Wardens

www.stpeterscremorne.org.au



Bronwyn Lihou praying for Tim and Sarah at the conclusion of the Morning Tea. Bronwyn has led the monthly Prayer Meeting on Monday evenings for the last 2 years.