



Seek you first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

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There is no fear in love.
But perfect love drives out fear,
because fear has to do with punishment.
The one who fears
is not made perfect in love.

1 JOHN 4:18

PERFECT LOVE

ARCHDEACON TOM HENDERSON-BROOKS

Our theme this month is God's perfect love. However, when I came to write, the news of the brutal killing of Karen Gilliland, mother of three, in Wandal, Rockhampton, was confronting us all with shock and horror. I found myself unable to write about God's love and decided that I needed to **write about us**. What's wrong with us? Why do we as human beings keep on committing such acts of atrocity against one another? Are there just a few 'bad eggs' among us in the community? Or is there something deeper crouching within, ready to spring?

My Bible reading that morning was Genesis 4:1-16, the profound story of Cain and Abel! It is so disturbing that the first offspring of Adam and Eve escalates sin all the way to murder.

There is something deeply and profoundly wrong with humanity. The Bible calls it sin and the problem is - we seriously *underestimate* it.

Last month our family watched The Terminator (1984) again, for old time sake, but we 'goggle-boxed' it. (We watched it simultaneously synchronised in different states with an audio connection to each other.) Sarah Connor is running for her life. She takes refuge in a crowded pub, then at a police station with dozens of armed officers... the Terminator (a human looking robot from the future) is unstoppable. Everyone seriously underestimates its predatory nature. Likewise, humanity seriously underestimates the power of sin.

In Genesis 4, God is saying to Cain - *you don't know the power of the sin in your heart* - "sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you".

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LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

JOHN 13:34



What does it look like for us to love other people?

We know we are called to do that, to love our neighbours as ourselves. But what does that love entail?

It is easy to focus in on just one aspect, but as is so often the case, a glance at the example of Jesus shows us a much more comprehensive picture. We see here the compassion of Jesus – his care for the lost sheep of Israel that he sees as he goes through the towns and villages.

This compassion is not one dimensional though – it seeks their welfare across all aspects of their lives, the spiritual as well as the physical. He shows his love by healing certainly, but just as much he shows his love by teaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. Ultimately this love and compassion is seen in his going to the cross, taking our place and seeing us restored in relationship to God.

As we seek to live as disciples of Jesus, how do we have a love for our neighbours that reflects the example of love that Jesus gives us? We need to have our eyes open for those who are in material need where we have opportunity to care for them, but we also need to have our eyes open for those whose greatest need is not something material, but is Jesus himself.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

MATTHEW 9:35-38

We often have a tendency to zero in on one or the other, leaving an imbalance. Many of our modern charities began out of a Christian desire to love, but have lost the desire to see people know Jesus. Likewise sometimes churches can want people to know Jesus in a way that so ignores their physical situation that it is distant and heartless.

The two sides of love go hand in hand, just as they did for Jesus as he was on the road through Israel. His example shapes how we are to live in many ways, but particularly as we think about love.

Rev Nathan Dean
Callide Valley

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Suddenly, our world and many things we have relied upon and taken for granted have changed. There is shock and much uncertainty amongst us all. As we begin to come to terms with this new reality and to follow where God may be leading us, I ask you to consider the partners with whom ABM continues to work through your generous support. This pandemic increases dramatically the health and economic risks to which they are exposed and threatens many of the gains which have been made over the last decades.

In Kenya, our church partners are providing simple handwashing stands in communal areas in villages in addition to the health messages. The Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa which represents all the Anglican provinces in Africa, have asked our help in assisting 3000 families in 10 of the most vulnerable African countries with food aid and sanitation supplies. The Diocese of Jerusalem's Ahli Hospital in Gaza has made a ward available to COVID-19 patients and is incorporating hygiene training into their child nutrition program.



HELP OUR PARTNERS STOP THE SPREAD

With the restrictions in place ABM's regular fundraising has been severely affected which means we have much less to give to our partners for the vital work they need to do to confront the health and economic threats of this pandemic. Your support for ABM's COVID-19 Tax Appeal will help ABM's partners in the Pacific, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Africa address growing suffering in their parts of the world. Here are some of the responses they are making already, and could do so much more with your help:

Church partners in Myanmar, Zambia, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea have been using church structures which go deep into remote parts of those countries to provide hygiene messages and, where funds and government restrictions allow, to improve access to water.

I urge you to support ABM's COVID-19 Tax Appeal, so that together, we can lessen the suffering for many families.

*God of grace, we thank you for all your gifts to us: grant us to accept both pain and joy in faith and hope, and never to fail in love to you and to our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.*

(Tuesday Evening Prayer in A Prayer Book for Australia)

Rev John Deane
Executive Director

THE LOVE ONE ANOTHER RACE

How do we love one another?

I was chatting to Usain Bolt the other day and he described his 100m world record race to me. 9.58 seconds! 9.58? Seriously? That is my personal record for reaching and turning off my alarm in the morning. However, it got me thinking. If loving each other were a 100m sprint, here is how it might look (according to my imaginary mate Usain).

The Start: Bolt describes how important reaction time is for a race. "Even if the first steps are not as quick as those around you, a quick reaction to the gun keeps you in the race." Right off the blocks remember we cannot stop God's love. He is our reaction to the gun – God jumps off the blocks for us. We are God's church, his flock; we cannot stop being that. Together we inevitably love and care for one another as God's people.

'God is love...

We love because he first loved us.'

1 John 4:16 + 19

0–30m: Drive Phase – "Keep your body forward, head down and drive hard!" Ask, are we all Christian? Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to McDonalds makes you a hamburger (Bolt loves those by the way).

Is each person in our church a Christian? Are the people in our church trusting in God's grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus? Are they submitting to Jesus with their whole life? Jesus said, in Mark 16:15-16,

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

If someone is not a Christian, then the most loving thing we can do for them is to help them understand and respond to the gospel, (the same as we love those outside the church). We drive hard, but not without care; there may be questions and doubts.

30–50m: Focus on Form. "Head comes up, lift your posture, run tall, pick your knees up and hold your shoulders down. Get this right and you accelerate to top speed."

Get shaped by Jesus. The next most loving thing we can do is to see each other become more like Jesus. It may be tricky to say what love is, but it is not hard to find its best form. Jesus' love for us is not based on our our loveliness, it is based on his form and posture. He ran the perfect race and, personally I believe, left Bolt in his dust. If we want to know how to love, we need



only focus on Jesus' form. Hebrews 12:1

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

50–60m: Focus on Speed. "Look left and right to check your position in the race and accelerate. Here you get to your max velocity, staying tall, relaxed and smooth!"

Read and know the Bible with each other. Bible study will be central to love shaped by Jesus. Reading the Bible always takes a Christian forward to top speed. We should examine God's Word together, to get to know God. We glance left and right to the people around us, not racing them, but reading with them. Taking note of where they are in their race and accelerate together as an act of love. Hebrews 6:1

Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.

60–70m: Top Speed. "Maintain your stride length and leg speed from here. Sixty meters, that is when I become a beast. That's when I start to dominate a race!"

Pray with each other. We cannot bring about spiritual change in other people any more than we can in ourselves, that is the work of God's Spirit. So, to love each other we need to pray with each other. We will not keep top speed without prayer with each other.

We need God to bring about deep inner transformation, and therefore we pray. We are weak and so we pray for God's strength to persevere through trials and difficulties; to stand firm against temptations; to remain faithful in the face of persecution; to work through our fears and doubts and struggles and selfishness; God's strength to run the race to the end. James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The

prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

70m—the End: Know Your Position with

Others. "I know where I'm at in the race in the last part, I listen to the crowd, the cheers, I look around again, but I run, run, run!"

Know where people are at. To do any of the above with effectiveness, we must know people. I guess this is where Usain and I differ in strategy, I am not racing against, but with the people I love. We know where others are around us, we know their strengths and weakness because that is a part of our strategy of love. Have we taken time to get to know people, to understand what they believe, where they are coming from, what they are living for, what they are trusting in? Love needs frequent interactions. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Love involves directing people to God, restoring relationships, protection from harm, encouragement, and making provision. Love is Jesus-shaped, Bible-nourished, and prayer-dependent. Love is not a 100m sprint. However, to love one another requires just as much, if not more, training, thinking, strategy and action that will get us to the end.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Rev Jake De Salis
Gladstone

NEW GEN SEC FOR QCT



Taisoo Kim Watson, President, recently announced that Rev David Baker has been appointed to the position of General Secretary of Queensland Churches Together. David is currently the Moderator of the Uniting Church Australia, Queensland Synod, and will complete this position at the end of 2020. He will commence duties as the QCT General Secretary in January 2021. In the interim, Dr Joe Goodall has been appointed as Locum General Secretary.

At the AGM, on 10 October, there will be opportunity to celebrate the retirement of Rev'd Canon Richard Tutin and express best wishes and appreciation for his dedication to QCT.



SORROW MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING



Following the lifting of restrictions for COVID-19 my wife Nola came up with the idea of having a lunch to celebrate the return of being together again in worship. I agreed with the idea but was almost immediately delegated to moving furniture, washing the deck, mowing lawns, scrubbing the BBQ and so on.

As you can guess the celebratory lunch was to be at our place. The night before and the morning of Sunday 14th June was a time of wonderful rain. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Christians of St Peter's Springsure who turned up in good numbers.



The ladies gathered together at one end of our deck and enjoyed lots of fellowship and sharing and laughs, as is the custom of 'country girls'. The men were not to be outdone at the BBQ end of the deck making sure the ladies' plates were topped up from time to time.

As we are reminded in Psalm 133:1

It was good to come together in unity

Bishop Alf Chipman (retired)
Springsure



KAREEN'S KITCHEN

Hi everyone, Kareen Gall from St. Luke's Wandal here.

Are you stuck for dinner ideas? I know how it feels. Sometimes it's hard to think of something new to cook. But if you're like me, you don't want complicated meals, that take too much extra brain power. I have a nice, easy, kid friendly recipe for you to try this month. I hope you enjoy it. It comes from one of my favourite food sources - The Chiappas

HAM AND PEA PASTA BAKE

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

- 300g mushrooms sliced
- 100g ham diced
- 100g peas
- 1 medium onion diced
- 20g butter and oil
- 250g cream cheese
- 300g pasta (shell is nice)
- 50g parmesan grated
- 1 tsp oregano
- 2 tbs of milk

Method

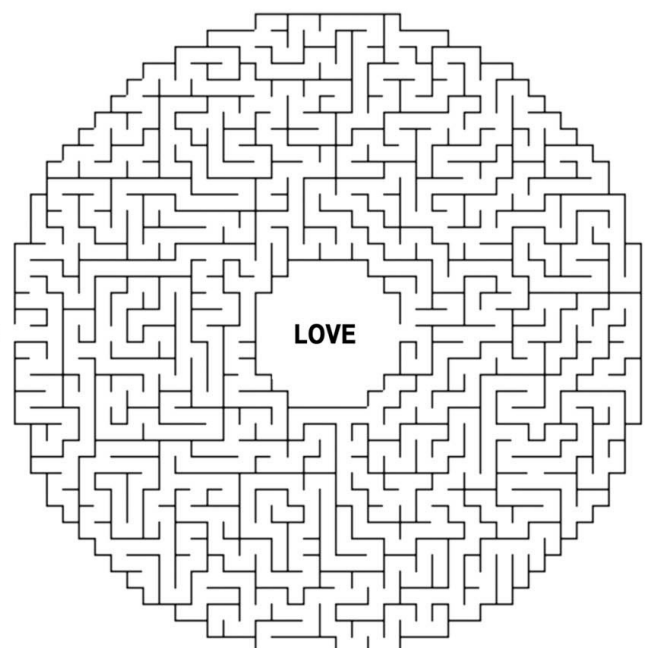
1. Preheat oven 190°C
2. Cook pasta till just under. (It will continue to cook in the oven)
3. Meanwhile soften the onion in the oil and butter.
4. Add the mushrooms and cook for a minute or two.
5. Add the peas and ham, and stir through the cream cheese, oregano and enough milk to loosen the mix.
6. Add to the pasta and stir to combine
7. Pour into a baking dish (lasagne tray), sprinkle with the parmesan and bake for 20 minutes.
8. Serve as is, or add a side salad to make it go further.

Well I do hope you enjoy this meal. Bon appetit!
thechiappas.com

KIDS' CORNER

Find your way to the love of Jesus

Start Here →



S	H	A	D	O	W	Y	L	S	T	L	O	R	D	Q
D	W	E	L	L	E	A	H	I	L	J	T	O	G	C
S	D	C	F	L	N	E	L	X	V	E	R	O	U	U
E	J	F	L	E	P	R	O	K	M	E	O	P	H	S
I	A	A	V	H	A	Z	E	A	B	D	F	O	T	E
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I	A	G	S	R	P	T	E	E	O	E	F	E	L	A
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LORD	NAME	ROD	RUNNETH
SHEPHERD	WALK	COMFORT	GOODNESS
LIE	VALLEY	TABLE	MERCY
PASTURES	SHADOW	PRESENCE	LIFE
LEADETH	DEATH	ENEMIES	DWELL
WATERS	FEAR	ANOINTEST	HOUSE
RESTORETH	EVIL	CUP	

Unite against COVID-19



STAGE 3 COVID SAFE UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Coronavirus has not gone away. Let's remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in Victoria where we are seeing just how quickly the virus can spread. We must continue to do all we can to protect our community. The Coronavirus will be with us for sometime yet. I have captured below all of the important information from the **COVID Safe Advisory Team** of the **QLD Health Department**. What you will read below is specific to our churches and hence may differ from what you may hear via media. Please continue to work together with your Ministers, Wardens and Parish Councillors to operate churches that are safe for all.

I have been tremendously encouraged by all that I have seen in live streaming, zoom morning teas, pastoral care and the use of social media to stay connected. The Coronavirus has forced all of our churches to change the way we do things. It has created new opportunities too. As we all adapt to our ever changing environment, may I encourage you to continue to reach out with the good news of Jesus with creativity, love, hope and perseverance.

From midday **Friday 3rd July**, most of the QLD community has entered **Stage 3** of the QLD COVID Safe Roadmap. **This does not apply to us! - Yet.**

Churches and places of Worship are not currently permitted to move to Stage 3. Churches and places of Worship are still following the Stage 2 Restrictions with some modifications. Believe me, I was all ready to transition, but my advice is direct from QLD Health.

Of course it still goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway):

- If you are unwell, stay at home, get tested and remain in isolation until you have your results.
- Always maintain social distancing at all times = 4 sq. metres around you.
- Practice good hygiene, wash hands, cough/sneeze into your elbow, use hand sanitizer.
- Keep tracking contacts, enable tracing and respond rapidly.
- Remember to clean and disinfect surfaces frequently.

Now unfortunately, churches and places of worship have **not** been specifically mentioned in Stage 3 of the QLD COVID Safe Roadmap. We monitor this on a daily basis and will advise when the situation changes. Here's my directive to all our Anglican churches in CQ. I am relying on the QLD Health websites and have appreciated all the hard work (and patience on phone calls) of our Safe Ministry Officer, the Rev Jen Hercott.

1. Have a COVID Safe Plan

Before any church can reopen, any congregation begin to meet again, any activity take place in our halls, facilities and properties - each church must develop and implement its own COVID Safe Plan. Use what Jen has provided. All of this information has been sent to parishes.

Unite against COVID-19



2. The Social Distancing Golden Rule is 4 sq. Metres

In Church facilities you need to allow 4 square metres per person. (If you are singing then the direction is 8 square metres. So if you are singing you have to **halve** the maximum number of people allowed in the building.

3. Know the Size of your Facility

Whether it is your church, your hall, your kitchen areas, you need to know the amount of space available for people to occupy safely. If you don't use an area, like the sanctuary, then don't count it towards your total available space. Always round down. And remember as Dr Seuss says, *"A person is a person no matter how small"* so you can't count children as half or count people from the same family as one!

4. The Current Maximum is still 20 people. Yes, 20.

Everyone is hearing '100' but this permission has not yet been extended to Churches and Places of Worship - yet (3rd July). Church leaders are currently negotiating with government and relaxation of this restriction will eventually proceed. Until then, please wait for Diocesan permission from the Administrator.

5. Funerals and Weddings

Funerals and Outdoor Weddings are permitted up to 100 people, as long as the 4 sq. metre rule is followed. After July 10, funerals and weddings will be capped at 100 people regardless of the size of the building.

6. Contact Tracing Records Must be Kept for 56 Days.

Please remember that for every worship service, every prayer meeting, every Bible study, every MU Meeting and every Church Hall activity, a Contact Tracing Record of every attendee (name, address and contact number) must be kept for 56 days. This must be done for every event and activity.

7. Industry Standards have now been Introduced.

All Churches and Places of Worship now have to follow 'industry standards'. The QLD Council of Churches has negotiated this with the QLD Government on behalf of all Churches. As a result, no refreshments can be served after services or at an event.

As you all continue to navigate these difficult times, continue to do all you can to look out for one another. Keep your eyes on Jesus. He is our only hope. May God continue to grow all of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your lives and churches.... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, against such things there is no law.

In Christ,

Ven Tom Henderson-Brooks

Administrator/Bishop's Commissary

ZOOM SYNOD - Sat 18th July 2020

Here's the news that you might have been looking for in this edition of CQFirst! We have a new Bishop, but we can't show you his face - yet!

Our thanks to the Bishop Election Board under the leadership of Bp Alf Chipman. They completed their task. The Bishop-Elect has accepted. All checks are completed. Written approval from the Provincial Bishops has been received. All that remains is the announcement.



The Bishop-Elect has asked for the announcement to be made on Saturday 18th July at the Special Session of our Zoom Synod. This part of the Synod will be live-streamed and available to the public. Watch the Diocesan Facebook page and website for links, or contact the Diocesan Office *during the week beforehand* for details. This news will then be announced in Churches on Sunday 19th July and in the media from the Monday.

Please uphold our Synod members in prayer for this Special Session of Synod that has been called by our Diocesan Council. We are facing some very tough times as a Diocese and we need to bring all our Synod Members up to date. The Business of Synod is strictly limited to the matters included in the Administrator's Citation. The Administrator and Registrar will be reporting on the State of the Diocese and the Chancellor will be presenting the Legal Advice we have received. Whilst we are facing serious financial challenges, we are also presenting a Roadmap for the future. Mission and Ministry belong to the Lord, so please ask the Lord to guide us in all wisdom and to grow his Kingdom through us, His servants, here in Central Queensland.

There will be a 'normal' Synod in October this year. Those who have been holding 2019 Synod elected and appointed responsibilities, continue with them until the next normal Synod on October the 24th, 2020. The plan is that from now on, Synod will normally be held in October to bring it in line with the majority of other Australian Dioceses. There is also a clergy retreat planned for after the October Synod.

CORONAVIRUS MENTAL WELLBEING

Thankfully, Australia has not been effected by the COVID-19 pandemic to the same scale as other countries around the world, and social restrictions are beginning to lift but many people have already been affected in various ways and will continue to need support in the months ahead.

Beyond Blue have developed a range of services to provide information, strategies and expert advice to help support your social and emotional wellbeing.

Click on the logo to see more



from front page...

It is not just that sin is humanity's greatest problem, but that we don't even see that it is. We underestimate the power of sin in our hearts. God tells Cain (and us) at least three things in Genesis 4:7. Sin hides. Sin is powerful. But there is hope.



Firstly, sin crouches. It hides itself. The image is of a predatory cat, like a lion or a leopard, hiding down low and small, ready to pounce, ready to strike. Our sin appears smaller than it really is. We rationalise our sin away. We minimise our sin. Cain's sin began with harbouring envy and jealousy in his heart. As envy festers it grows into hate and in an irreversible moment it has leapt into violence and murder. It all starts in a very ordinary everyday way. God says, you don't see what is crouching at your door. Ordinary people are capable of monstrous things. Society has been fooled by the hiddenness of sin.

Secondly, sin is powerful. It wants to have you. It wants to devour you. When we sin, we create something that stays with us and wants to chew on us and devour us. New York pastor Tim Keller, puts it this way. "After you've done a sin, the sin does you. Sin is not done with you after you're done with it." Haters are eaten with hatred. Liars are eaten with lies. Cain's problem was not Abel. It was within himself. Cain reaped what he sowed.

Finally, there is a word of hope. Sin can be mastered and defeated. Thinking back to The Terminator, sin is like the Terminator. Sin is after us and wants to devour us. But there's a moment when Kyle, a soldier also from the future, says to Sarah Connor, "Come with me if you want to live." He protects her and even gives his life to save her. As soon as sin entered the world (Gen.3), God promised humanity an offspring who would stomp on the serpent's head. An Offspring Saviour who would deal a decisive but costly victory over Satan, evil, death and sin. (Gen.3:15)



When God confronts Cain for murdering Abel, God says *"your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."* Human beings matter to God. The blood of every extinguished human life cries out to God from the earth. God cannot let their cries go unheard. To do so would be to treat humanity like trash, for God created us good. Therefore sin cannot be overlooked, it has to be defeated. That's what Jesus did.

Not only did God in Jesus identify with humanity, as one who was also cruelly and unjustly murdered, God in Jesus, willingly poured out His blood as the means for our forgiveness. The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24) The writer of Hebrews continues in vs.25, *"see to it that you don't refuse him who speaks."*

God offered Cain a way out, the way of repentance. God makes that same offer to every human being, all of us who have sin crouching in our hearts. It is the offer of himself, of his perfect love, sublimely revealed in Jesus, that drives out all fear, all darkness, all sin.

Tom



We heartily thank
this month's contributors
and welcome your
contributions.

CQFirst is the monthly online publication of the Anglican Diocese of Rockhampton, QLD.

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Next Edition Deadline: Wed 22nd July
Next Edition Theme: 'Suffering & Faith'

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