



The Anglican Herald

The Anglican Catholic Church in Western Australia

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In the September 2019 issue of this publication this was the heading

Called Individually and Corporately

I sought to point out that God has chosen and called us into His service. **God chose us – we did not choose God.** As we are now in the Season of Lent I thought I would raise this matter once again.

I wonder how many of you talked with Fr Brian and asked how you could help? Did you tell Fr Brian what particular gift or talent you have that may be of help to him and our Church? I will ask Fr Brian to put the September 2019 issue on St Peter's website so you can read it again. Lent is a good time to consider how we might serve God and His Church.

I am now retired but I believe that a gift that God gave me during my active ministry was an ability to preach sermons which were in the main centred on the Gospel and easily understood. I believe and like to think that now God has given me the gift of writing articles that may be of help to individual Christians and to the Church in general. I pray this is so.

I suggested that we spend an hour alone with God each Wednesday during Lent and I believe we should include praying that God will help us discern what gift He has given us to share with our Church.

In this issue I want to emphasise the importance of contributing to the life of our Church on a more personal basis.

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission”. J.H. Newman

John Henry Newman was an English theologian and poet, first an Anglican priest and later a Roman Catholic priest and cardinal, who was an important and controversial figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century. He was canonised (declared a Saint) by Pope Francis on 13th October 2019.

In this statement Cardinal Newman has raised a most important matter. He has suggested that God gives each individual person a mission or task that no other person has been given.

If this is so and I have no reason to doubt it, we are confronted with an awesome responsibility. Every one of us – you and me – has a unique part to play in the ongoing mission of the Church. We are aware that Jesus commanded His followers to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel throughout the world. The Church of today still has this mission and every member of the Church is called to share in making the Gospel known within the community in which we live.

I cannot tell you what your individual gift is or what unique role you have in God's plan of salvation. But there is one gift that is given to all Christians – **The Gift of Prayer!** Whatever the Church does corporately or whatever each individual member does must start with prayer. We must pray alone with God and in communion with our fellow Christians. Prayer is both a personal and corporate activity and it is a most powerful weapon in God's service.

To be a non praying Christian is a contradiction in terms!

Prayer is our conversational link with God. Prayer is the means by which God communicates with us and we with Him. We cannot function effectively without prayer. So first and foremost we must be people of prayer. While we often complain that there never seems to be enough hours in a day; we must find time each day to spend in prayer to and with God. How will we know what God wants of us if we don't take the time to find out? – this is done through prayer.

To be of service to God we must make ourselves available!

How often have we been asked by someone if we can help and responded by saying “I’d love to help but I don’t have the time.” I’m sure most of us have experienced this situation. In the 1980’s the well known singer Cher released a song titled ‘If I could turn back time’. In many ways this seems to be the wish of everybody. We would like the chance to change something we did in the past. We don’t really want to get old in years – we would like to remain at our physical peak. We cannot hold or turn back time. Time moves ever onward. The question for us therefore is how best to use the time we have at our disposal.

How much of our time do we offer in God’s service?

If we accept Cardinal Newman’s statement as true then we are required by our declared faith in Jesus Christ to make the time available to undertake the unique task God has given us. This is not an option – we really have no choice if we want to serve our Lord.

There are three (3) points on Prayer I want to draw to your attention.

1. Spend time in Prayer

Praise the Lord for His blessings

Pray for the Church and for our parishes

Pray for more priests

Pray for the sick and for the faithful departed

2. Ask God to show you His gift and unique task He has given you

If you know your talent or gift – tell Fr Brian

If you don’t know – ask Fr Brian and your friends what they think your talent may be

3. Think and pray about how to use the time available to you

Use some time to read your Bible

Make some time available for the Church when requested

What I am suggesting may be easier said than done but if we don’t do anything then nothing will change and we may not be serving God as we should.

Remember that Prayer is a two way conversation

Allow Time for God to speak to you

For this month of March we are in the Season of Lent. This is the time to look at how we are practising our Faith. If I do indeed have a unique task then it stands to reason that if I don't undertake this task it will not get done for it is mine alone. I must not think that someone else will fill in for me. This is not the way it works.

I've mentioned on numerous occasions the fact that to be Christian we must declare our personal belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Lord of my life. Our Faith in the first instance is an intimately personal matter between ourselves and God – a recognition that Jesus died on the cross; was raised and now lives and that He is the only way to eternal salvation.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14.6

*God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out, and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.*

We know that in God's good time He will bring His whole creation under the authority of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Until that time however we are commanded and empowered to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. As individual Christians and members of the Church we each have our part to play in this mission.

As we look forward to the great Festival of Easter let us use this Lenten time to prepare ourselves for the new life won for us and made available to us through the resurrection of Jesus. God has granted us the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us as we live our lives in service to Christ and His Church.

**Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit will
Refresh each one of us
And reinvigorate our Church**