



The Anglican Herald

The Anglican Catholic Church in Western Australia

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Called Individually and Corporately

Just what does it mean to be a Christian? What has happened to make us declare faith in Jesus Christ and be an active member of the Church?

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

John 15. 16-17

In the first place we need to understand that God has chosen us because of His love for us. Everything God does for His creation and for each one of us individually is done on the foundation of His love. God's very being and nature is love.

So God has chosen us – He chose us – we did not choose God!

God has also appointed us to go and bear fruit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1Corinthians 12. 4-7

Saint Paul tells us that there are a variety of gifts and services given to us by the Holy Spirit. Each of us has been given a gift of one sort or another. How do we recognise our gift and how do we use it?

As we have grown so we should (or may) have discovered what we are good at or that we have an ability or skill for a particular task or purpose. This knowledge should indicate to us that God has given us a particular gift or gifts to serve Him as a Christian.

Whatever gift God has given us we can use as an individual Christian but we are also meant to share our gift with other Christians through our membership within the Body of Christ.

The Body of Christ is the Church!

Saint Paul continues to tell us that there are a variety of activities. Different things have to be done to make the Church function as it should. Each one of us is meant to offer our gift or gifts for the use of the Church as our contribution to its life.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The sharing of our God given gifts within the life of the Church is an expression of our love of God and our love for our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ – the Church.

In a way probably unique to each one of us God has led us to faith in Jesus and active membership of His Church. God has called us to have a personal relationship with Jesus and to acknowledge Him as our Lord and Saviour. God has also called us to share this faith with our fellow believers so that together we might undertake the Mission of the Church which is to lead all people to Christ.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28. 19-20

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

Romans 12. 4-6...

An essential element of being a Christian is surely to join our fellow believers in the Church. What part do we play? Saint Paul tells us that we should use our gifts – how do we do that?

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4. 11-13

In the letter to the Ephesians Paul names a number of appointments for the work of the Church. Let us name other appointments for our present day Church.

Bishops; Priests; Deacons; Lay Readers; Altar Servers; Readers; Wardens; Secretaries; Treasurers; Musicians; Council Members; and no doubt other requirements. Our Church needs all these appointments to function properly and effectively.

There are many Christians who attend their churches regularly and are aware of the needs of their churches but say and do nothing. They are made aware of specific jobs that have to be done and requests for people to come forward but they continue to say and do nothing. These people are not contributing to the life of their churches.

We are a small Church but we have a most important mission – To promote and maintain the Catholic Faith in its Traditional Anglican expression. We are Traditional Anglicans seeking to retain the integrity of the Gospel and the dignity of Mankind. We are aware that much of the Canterbury Communion has abandoned the Faith and has compromised with secular and frankly sinful beliefs and practices.

It is vital that each of us does whatever we can to support the mission of our Church here in WA. Perhaps you could ask Fr Brian – how can I help? Fr Brian may ask – what are you good at? This would be the opportunity to offer the gift you believe God has given you. Fr Brian will be happy to get all the help he can.

Where should I start?

As in all matters relating to the Church you should start with prayer. Pray seriously for the welfare of our Church and for the way in which you are called by God to help. The Holy Spirit guides the lives of faithful believers and He will show you the way forward. Pray also every day for Fr Brian. He is doing all he can to grow the Church and to provide pastoral care to our parishioners.

On the one hand this issue of the Anglican Herald is a little different from what may be considered my normal style. I have presented this issue in this fashion because I believe we need to take a long hard look at our situation. Bishop David has asked us to pray for vocations. I am asking you to also pray for the Church in WA. With the Blessing of God we can go forward with confidence.

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And all these things will be added unto you**