MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: YANCHEP: 6 p.m. Saturday Vigil, St James Anglican Church, 2 Lagoon Drive. GUILDERTON: 8 a.m. Sunday, Guilderton Community Hall, Wedge Street. LANCELIN: 9.45 a.m. Sunday, 33 Gingin Road, Lancelin.

Confessions: before Mass on request

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. at the presbytery, Wednesdays 3 p.m. at Bethanie Beachside Aged Care.

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We pray for the sick of our community, especially:

Pat Murphy, Ken and Toni Meek, Delores Servais, Michael Ford, Jim Walsh, Paula Cope, Pat Barone, Josephine del Bene, Len Sims and Nina Campbell.

We pray for all departed souls from this Pastoral area, and we ask them to pray for us.

(Commentary continued) and Supreme Court) and are actually being tried for healing a man in the name of Jesus. St. Peter concludes his message with this line: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." This is the line that offends our modern pluralism. Isn't it arrogant for Peter to claim that Jesus is the sole way to "salvation"? I don't think it is, once we understand what "salvation" is. "Salvation" as defined by Jesus and the Church is not an eternity in a garden of sensual delights. Rather, "salvation" is to share the very life of God. It is to participate in the divine nature, to become a "child" or "son" of God, and enjoy him forever.

The founders of other major world religions do not even claim to offer a way to this "salvation." The Buddha taught that the problem of human existence was the illusion of our self-hood, and he offered a way by which we could lose this illusion and thus essentially cease to exist as personal beings. This is not what Christians mean by "salvation." Mohammed taught a way of obedience to a monopersonal god, "Allah," who would reward those who were his obedient servants in this life by granting them an afterlife of sensual pleasure and comfort. He did not offer divine sonship, nor a participation in the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4). This, too, is not what Christians mean by "salvation." We could continue this analysis, mutatis mutandis, with the other founders of world religions and philosophical systems. They do not claim to offer what Jesus Christ claims to offer: divine sonship (childhood), which is a participation in the life of God himself, forever. If there are three vendors on a street in a marketplace, one selling bananas, one selling oranges, and one selling apples, it is not arrogant for the banana merchant to proclaim, "I am the only way to bananas!" Apologies for the humble analogy, but likewise it is not arrogant for St. Peter to proclaim on behalf of Christ, "There is no other name by which we must be saved!" - provided we understand what it is to be "saved" according to Jesus and the Apostles.

Sunday Bulletin

4th Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

Year B

The Good Shepherd, Greek Orthodox Byzantine Icon, egg tempera on wood panel.



Entrance Antiphon | cf.Ps 33(32): 5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.



First Reading ‡ Acts 4: 8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm ‡ Ps 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29.

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. *R*.

I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **R.**

Second Reading ‡ John 3: 1-2

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation ‡ John 10: 14 Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel # John 10: 11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Commentary by Dr John Bergsma from The Sacred Page:

http://www.thesacredpage.com/2012/04/scandalous-jesus-readings-for-fourth.html

Our English word "scandal" comes ultimately from the Greek *skandalon*, "a stumbling block." A "scandal" is something that causes people to "stumble," i.e. that offends or injures them in some way. As we will see, the exclusive claims made for and by Jesus in the readings for this Sunday are scandalous to the pluralistic and relativistic culture we live in today.

Peter and John have been taken before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish combination Congress