

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 4 July 2022

'It's Hard Work.'

Susan Sharandon won the 1996 Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Sister Helen Prejean in the movie *Dead Man Walking*. In the movie, based on actual events, the nun becomes spiritual advisor to Matthew Poncelet, a convicted murderer on Louisiana's death row, played by Sean Penn. Although Prejean has personal doubts about her work and is repeatedly confronted by the victims' enraged parents, she draws upon her inner strength to sustain her ministry.

At the end of the movie, immediately after Poncelet's funeral, the father of one of the victims comments that he wishes he had her faith. Sister Prejean replies, 'It's not just faith. It's not that easy. It's hard work.'

Just to reiterate what I said in my sermon two weeks ago, to be a reasonable Christian (we can't really hope to be perfect Christians!) requires a degree of sacrifice, as well as a large dollop of commitment and devotion to what we believe.

'Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him.'
Romans 12:1

Book of Reflections

Bishop Bruce Gilberd (retired Bishop of Auckland) has written a book of daily reflections. If you would like a copy, please let me know. \$25 plus postage.

Jammies in June

A message from Rhys Bean:

I delivered 20+ Jammies to Middlemore Foundation on Friday afternoon - they were absolutely delighted to receive the donations from St Paul's in the Park and have asked me to forward their sincere thanks to all those who contributed to Jammies in June 2022, including those who made a donation.

Personally I think this is another way in which our Church supports the needy in the community, and we should feel proud of our efforts.

Thank you very much. Rhys

I would like to add my thanks to those who have contributed and also to Rhys for her organisation.

And on that note, thank you for your support of our foodbank. Your contributions have been magnificent and are really appreciated. Keep them coming!

To Ponder

'A diamond cannot be polished without friction, and a person cannot be perfected without trials.' Chinese proverb

Time for a Smile

Reverend Clive Morgan was completing his homily in St John's Church about the dangers of alcohol and the need for moderation and temperance. He announced at the end of the sermon in a loud, clear voice, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' With even greater emphasis he added, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' Finally, he intoned in an extremely serious manner, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

The Reverend Morgan then sat down. Jerry, St John's leading chorister stood up and announced with a smile, 'For our closing hymn this Sunday, let us sing together hymn number 109: 'Shall We Gather at the River.'



Reverend Warner Wilder

warnerwilder30@gmail.com 021 548 407