

Good versus Evil

'A man possessed by an evil spirit was in the synagogue, and he began shouting, 'Why are you bothering us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One sent from God!' Jesus cut him short. *'Be silent! Come out of the man.'* At that, the evil spirit screamed and threw the man into a convulsion, but then left him.' Mark 1:25-26.

In the 1970's the movie, The Exorcist, was breaking box office records. It concerned a young person who was possessed by an evil spirit. The movie was based on an actual case of a 14-year-old boy who lived in Maryland in 1949. Apparently, pictures, chairs and the boy's bed would suddenly move about. At night the boy barely slept. After he was admitted to Georgetown University Hospital, the boy began to mouth fierce curses in ancient languages and at one point, whilst strapped helplessly in his bed, long red scratches appeared on his body. The boy eventually survived an exorcism and went on to live in Washington.

As we look at that story and the story from Mark, we ask ourselves, 'What is the message here?' A simple answer would be that good will always triumph over evil....eventually! A definition of God could be, 'The spirit of goodness/love dwelling in our world.' This spirit is manifested in the person of Jesus, and each one of us is challenged to live our lives in accordance with that spirit. There is so much pain and suffering out there, and we have a mandate as believers to combat this suffering in any way we can, albeit a small way, but it all helps!

'So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to anyone.' Galatians 6:9.

'But you, brothers and sisters, must not become tired of doing good.' 2 Thessalonians 3:13.

'Good.'

Speaking of good, the word *good* has actually many meanings. GK Chesterton, the English poet and novelist, said if a man were to shoot his mother-in-law at a range of 500 yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man.

And then there is that wonderful line given by Mae West in a movie when replying to the observation, 'Goodness, what beautiful diamonds!' she said, 'Goodness has nothing to do with it, dearie.'

Food Bank

And speaking of doing our little bit to alleviate suffering, please don't forget to add a little something to your grocery shopping each week for our food bank. It is greatly appreciated.

Preaching

On Sunday November 9th, the Venerable Peter Jenkins, who was recently appointed Archdeacon for the Southern region, and who participated in our consecration service, will be preaching. Not to be missed!

Thanksgiving Offertory

On Sunday 30th November (Advent Sunday), there will be an opportunity to materially give thanks for the many blessings we have received both as a church and as individuals. The offertory will be used to offset our operating deficit we are currently facing. More details will follow next month.

'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Corinthians 9:7

Playgroup

Every Wednesday in our community centre 10.00am – 12.00 midday. Contact Larce 027 706 2649

Also: All Saints Playgroup, Tuesdays 9.30 – 11.30am. Hasler Hall, All Saints Church, Selwyn Road, Howick. Contact Sue 021 187 3131.

The Park Community Centre

We continue to field enquiries regarding the use of our facilities. It is becoming a busy place. Many thanks to Shireen for the sterling job she is doing in handling all the bookings.

Time for a Smile

A man goes into the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, please help me. I've swallowed a five dollar note. 'Take these pills,' says the doctor, 'and give me a call tomorrow if there's been no change.'

A man goes into the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, I think I'm a bell.' 'Take these pills,' says the doctor, 'and if they don't work, give me a ring.'

To Ponder.

'If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.' St Francis of Assisi.

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