



St Matthew's Holland Park Weekly Bulletin 11th August 2024
A Big St Matt's welcome to Stephen Harrison and Claire Housden
for our parish's 2024 Anglicare Sunday Celebration!

*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **What are you being Divinely drawn to today?***

In today's Gospel, Jesus's Dialogue with the crowd the subject of the last 2 weeks Gospel readings continues and becomes sharper.

Notice how the identity of the participants engaging in the Dialogue with Jesus changes in verse 41 from *'the Crowd'* to *'the Jews'* ... so, are all of the Crowd now in disputation or only some? Earlier in the Chapter, the Crowd addressed Jesus respectfully and was determined to make Him King. Now, the demeanour of the Dialogue participants changes.



In verse 42, they declare that they **know** who Jesus is .. they know His mother and father. They grumbled *'What is he saying ' that he came down from Heaven?'* Clearly, they had grasped the Divine implication of Jesus' I AM statement - **'I am the Bread of**

Life' but just couldn't accept it as it flew in the face of *their understanding* of Jesus and His family circumstances.

By the way, I wonder whether we, like these grumbling folks, at some point may also not be open to accepting a fresh Divine invitation to a deeper calling or understanding of who **Jesus really is ?** Instead, we may seek to hold fast to our own meagre understanding of Jesus - which, by the way, may also be safe, comfortable and familiar for us and insulate us from a Divine challenge to change our assumptions?

Then, from verse 43 onwards, Jesus introduces a whole new context building upon His earlier themes of the Passover and His reenactment of the Mosaic miracles [i.e. the feeding of the 5000 and the calming of the waters].

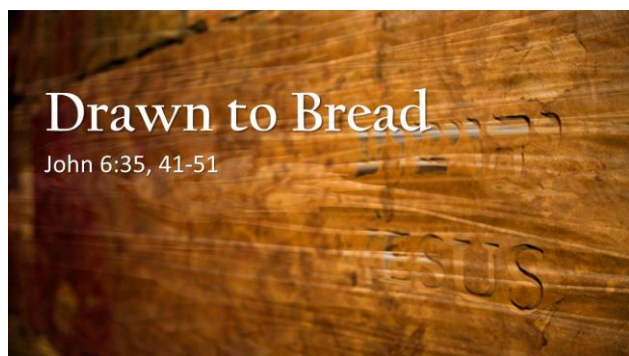
Jesus adopts the grumblers complaint and declares that He is the **LIVING** bread of life that comes down out of Heaven. He invites them to accept Himself and, through this acceptance, receive redemption and eternal life. So just as bread as the first century staple food satisfies our physical hunger, so only being in a real and living relationship with Jesus can satisfy the spiritual hunger that lies deep inside all humans - whether recognised or not.

Jesus then explains that only those who the Father has spoken to and have learnt the truth from the Father will be **drawn to** Jesus. Interestingly, the actual word used for *drawing* could also be translated as *dragged*.

I think all of us have at some point felt that Divine and seemly irresistible and incessant force at work upon us. We may not want to heed what it has to tell us or to follow where it may led us ... but nevertheless, that yearning, or sense of 'niggle' or 'nudge' keeps on

coming. This Divine drawing is inherent in all of us .. *inviting us all to go deeper, Godwards and become that which we were meant to be and become.*

So, I wonder where, what and who you may be being Divinely drawn or invited to today?



Today is our parish's **Anglicare Sunday** when we give thanks for the mission and work of Anglicare SE Queensland and in particular our adopted Anglicare ministry Insync. How privileged we are as a parish to partner with Anglicare... whether it involves music singalong for shut-ins, community information sessions concerning Ageing and disability, support for Insync and most importantly our ongoing prayer and financial

support. We are also looking forward to regularly hosting some Anglicare clients as our Wednesday morning service.

Many thanks to our Anglicare guests for their update today upon their ministries. Perhaps, some of our *Divine drawings* may be to further assist our Anglicare ministries in some way?

Gospel reading: John 6:35; 41-45 **Some resources to dig deeper:**

<https://reflectionary.org/2021/08/02/1-kings-194-8-john-635-41-51/> ;

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-19-2/commentary-on-john-635-41-51>

Upcoming Parish Activities: **Wednesday** 10:30 a.m service; **Mediation** 6:30 p.m;

Every Sunday Guitars and Ukulele lessons at 3 p.m; **Bible Study** Wednesday at 7 pm and Friday at 10:30 am; Next Sunday Parish Council.

Next Sunday's Readings: **Judith** :1 Kings 2:10-12;3:3-14; Ps 111; **Rebecca:** Ephesians 5:11-31; John 6: 51 -58

Parish Directory:

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Bank Details: Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ;

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556418523933> ; Tipper's

Treasure's Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.