Order of Australia: an honour shared

The Archbishop of Brisbane, The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, was today appointed a Companion (AC) of the Order of Australia (General Division) as part of the Queen’s Birthday 2021 Honours List.

The citation for the honour is: “For eminent service to the Anglican Church of Australia, to the development of ecumenical relationships and professional standards, and through commitment to social justice and welfare.”

In accepting the Order of Australia, Archbishop Aspinall acknowledged the tireless work of the many people within the Anglican Church who contribute so much to the common good.

“This is really their honour. Despite our failings, we strive to do good work,” Archbishop Aspinall said.

“In these times when there has been some deserved criticism of the Church, it is reassuring to know that so many people of faith give of themselves generously and compassionately to serve others.”

“It is my hope that the Church can be there for everyone seeking spiritual guidance and support.”

Archbishop Aspinall has been the Archbishop of Brisbane since 2002. From 2005 to 2014 he was Primate of Australia, the highest position within the Anglican Church of Australia.

Within two weeks of being appointed Archbishop of Brisbane, he established an Independent Inquiry into the handling of sex abuse allegations and has encouraged victims to come forward to seek assistance and to enable proper action to be taken.

He has also held numerous other senior roles including Chair of Anglicare Australia, a member of the International Commission for Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue and Chair of the national Anglican Ecumenical Relations Commission.
Sunday Devotions • Monday 14 June 2021 • By Angie Mooney

Sunday Devotion: 20 June 2021, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Peace! Be still! Quiet the storm within

Main Readings: 1 Samuel 17. (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 or 1 Samuel 17.57-18.5, 10-16; Psalm 9.9-20 or Psalm 133; 2 Corinthians 6.1-13; Mark 4.35-41 [Job 38.1-11; Psalm 107.1-3, 23-32]

Supplementary readings: Psalm 9.1-10; 1 Peter 2.9-17; 1 Samuel 17.57-18.5, 10-16 or 1 Samuel 17.1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49; Psalm 133 or Psalm 9.9-20; Mark 5.1-20

“Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” (Mark 4.40)

Storms can be terrifying. I was a bush kid born during a drought and can remember my first storm! I reacted to the lightning and thunder by hiding under the kitchen table terrified with my dog! As the storm grew outside, my fears intensified within. Fear, like a storm, sometimes has the power to engulf me.

This week’s Gospel describes a ‘windstorm’ and the disciples’ fearful reaction. Fear could be described as a storm within. Only God has authority over nature, as Jesus demonstrates; however, Jesus also indicates that faith has power over fear: “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Jesus speaks to the windstorm as if it's a demon (cf 1.25). ‘Satan’ (meaning ‘adversary’ in Hebrew) attempts to prohibit Jesus' ministry of bringing in God’s Kingdom (1.13, 8.33). In my life, fear is the adversary that easily can take away my faith. Too often, my initial reactions are based on fear, rather than responding in faith.

Faith, which is a gift from God, has power over fear. When embodied, faith emanates peace and stillness. Rebutting fear through the command of “Peace! Be still!” disempowers fear and allows the Word to keep growing within.