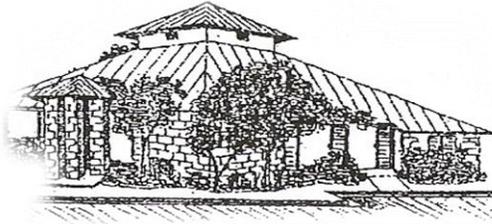


Kirwan Uniting Church



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KEEPING IN TOUCH

WELCOME! *We welcome all visitors with us today, and pray your time with us will be a blessed one.*

Kirwan's Mission Statement

To be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world

26th July 2020,

Service Times: 8.30am and 10.30am

Lectionary readings	Pentecost 8
Gen 29: 15-28	Psm: 105 : 1-11, 45b
	Psm: 128
Rom 8: 26-39	Mt 13: 31-33, 44-52

Richard's Ramble

Two of my favourite poets are John Donne and George Herbert. They were contemporaries and have much in common, both of Welsh descent, both educated at Cambridge, both became (reluctant) Anglican priests (shades of another favourite, the Welsh poet/priest R S Thomas), both pioneer practitioners of the metaphysical school. Donne adopted as his ordination seal a design of Christ crucified on an anchor. Not long before he died, he had copies of the seal made and sent to the friends he valued most, Herbert among them. In gratitude, Herbert wrote a poem in Latin to Donne exploring the image.

Another Herbert poem which includes reference to an anchor is 'Hope'.

I gave to Hope a watch of mine; but he
An anchor gave to me.

Here, Hope is a personification of Christ. Perhaps the most overlooked of the three "abiding", that is eternal, virtues from 1 Corinthians 13. Herbert gives Hope a watch. Does he think mistakenly that hope is time-bound? A present stuck in the present while hope looks patiently ahead? Or maybe the watch, a human mechanism with hands that seek to contain each moment, falsely embodies the idea that hope is human in origin and not of God, eternal in source and scope? Whatever, Hope gives an anchor in return. As John Donne's seal reinforces, an anchor is cruciform, cross-shaped security against the dragging tides of fear, guilt, hopelessness. Hebrews 6 can't have been far from Herbert's or Donne's minds when they considered the simile.

... we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

Look, there are some pretty swelling billows around just now. A global

pandemic which is hitting home here in Australia, geo-political dangers not seen since before I was born. But,

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

This Week's Calendar

Mon 27th	9.30am Pastoral Care
	10.30am House of Jonah,
Tues 28th	10.00am Craft Cards and
	Chitchat
Wed 29th	7.30pm: Bible Study

Arrangements for COVID compliance

As nothing has changed in Queensland during the last week, we will continue with the same arrangements as last week, including morning tea between 9.30 and 10am. If the 10.30 service people want to have a morning tea after their service, you are welcome to arrange this, but we have to use packaged food.

We are watching developments south of the border with considerable concern, but we will continue with our current worship arrangements until we are instructed to alter things. Thanks to everyone who is helping to make this possible and blessings to you all.

David K



**August Fellowship Meeting
Mini Golf
Tuesday August 4th 10am. Kings Road**



If you would like to join us please let Sheila know a.s.a.p.

God's Word For You Today

You are loved
You are healed
You are protected
You have an amazing future
and destiny.

(God's Word for You Today from Carpentaria Link 18)