From Rev Canon Maree

This morning we welcome Reverend Canon Julia Perry as celebrant and preacher.

† **Prayers for the Community: **Community Prayers: This week we pray for the petrol stations, hairdressers, pre-schools and the public and Catholic schools in our area. We also pray for the sheltered workshop and fabrications workshops in our community.

† **Baptism:** Today we welcome into God’s family Bailey O’Connor Keysell. We pray for his parents Jodi-Lee Keysell and Troy Anthony Griffin and his Godparents Belinda Duffy and Heather Cotterill. We give thanks for Bailey and ask God’s blessing on him as he grows in God’s love.

† **Pre-Synod Meeting:** On Thursday, 18 October 2012 a Pre-Synod Meeting will be held for Newcastle and Newcastle West at St Luke’s, Wallsend commencing at 7.00 pm.

Blessings, Rev Canon Maree

† **Holy Communion:** Home communion will be given today. Please pray for our extended faith community.

† **Also this Week:**

| Wed 25/7 | 10.00 am - 12.00 Noon | St John’s Lollypops Playgroup |

† **Mission Giving for July 2012 – Mission to Seafarers:** The Mission to Seafarers is a Christian organization that cares for seafarers of all nationalities and they provide them with a safe place for their short stay. The seafarers are provided with practical help such as getting in touch with their family and helping them with phone calls. They are provided with much needed beanies and there is a chaplain for seamen to talk to.

† **St John’s Lollypops:** Our playgroup is held each Wednesday from 10.00 am -12.00 Noon in the church hall. Families and children are welcome.

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**FOCUS FOR ADULTS**

Most of us in our lives, have experienced some situations of divisions in either their families, community, or workplace, even their church.

These can be painful times, when the ‘walls of hostility’ are built high and seem insurmountable. Some situations, such as family or community feuds, can continue for generations. We all know how much energy is required to break down and break through these dividing walls.

On a global scale, civil wars have caused massive walls of hostility, and the work of reconciliation requires perseverance and transformation.

Think about experiences of division in your own life. What were the circumstances? How did these make you feel? What needed to be achieved? What were you able to do about the situation?

I pray that we may be faith-filled communities which invites deeper reflection on God’s vision of wholeness and unity.

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**REFLECTION**

Walls Mark our Boundaries

By Ruth Duck

Walls mark our boundaries and keep us apart. Walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart. Tables are round making room for more. Welcoming friends we had not known before. So build us a table and tear down the wall! Christ be our host. There is room for us all.

Walls make us sure who is in and who’s out. Walls keep us safe from all question and doubt. But at a tale in open exchange New ties are formed as our lives rearrange. So build us a table and tear down the wall! Christ is our host. There is room for us all.

Once we were strangers, divided, alone. Hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone. Now at a table, the bread that we share, Join us to Christ, in a circle of care. So build us a table and tear down the wall! Christ is our host. There is room for us all.
VISION OF UNITY

The season after Pentecost calls us to reflect on Christ’s commission to go into all the world and the ways the church fulfils Jesus’ call to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Yet discipleship involves not only reaching out to those beyond the church, but also seeking peace with our own church community, honouring our commonality in Christ.

In today’s reading we celebrate God’s loving vision for healing, wholeness and unity. In this season we are invited into deeper reflection on what this vision means for the life of the church.

Prayer
Merciful God through Christ walls that divide are broken. Forgive us for times when we have failed to live as a faithful community. May we know the depths of your love and grace. Amen.