

# Contact.



**Second Sunday of Easter**

7 April 2024

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**TODAY SUNDAY 7 Apr 2024**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

*Acts 4:32-37 | Psalm 133*

*1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31*

**8.00am EUCHARIST**

Presider: Fr Ray

Preacher: Fr Ray

Readers: Bruce Sanderson

Intercessor: Hans Ferdinands

Server: Hans Ferdinands

Welcomers: Sue Hodges & Noel Hodges

**10.00am SUNG EUCHARIST**

Presider: Rev Jill Renison

Preacher: Fr Ray

Deacon: Fr Ray

Sub-Deacon: Geoff Vincent

MC: Ross Smith

Readers: Kerry Pratt & Alicia

Palfreeman

Intercessor: Alys Gagnon

Servers: Sue Banting & Ferry Hasiholan

Crucifer/Thurifer: Sam Babuswamy

Welcomers: Ruth Geraghty, Helen

Creed & Roger Creed

Hymns: 477, 363 & 393

**6.00pm EVENSONG**

Reflection: Fr Ray

Lead: Fr Ray

Hymns: 409 & 393

Welcomers: Alison Milne & Tony

Smythe

**NEXT SUNDAY 14 Apr 2024**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

*Acts 3:12-20 | Psalm 4*

*1 John 2:15-17; 3:1-6 | Luke 24:36b-48*

**8.00am EUCHARIST**

Presider: Fr Ray

Preacher: Fr Ray

Readers: Penny Galbraith

Intercessor: Peter Forwood

Server: Hans Ferdinands

Welcomers: Gillian Forwood, Peter Forwood

& Jocelyn Wilson

**10.00am SUNG EUCHARIST**

Presider: Bp Graeme Rutherford

Preacher: Bp Graeme Rutherford

Deacon: Rev Helen Creed

Sub-Deacon: Ross Smith

MC: Ferry Hasiholan

Readers: Grevis Beard & Sue Banting

Intercessor: Tetty Michaelson

Crucifer: Geoff Vincent

Servers: Tetty Hutagalung & Jenny Cook

Crucifer/Thurifer: Geoff Vincent

Welcomers: Robin Carter, Greg Beeton &

Celia Beeton

Hymns: 361, 382 & 380

**6.00pm EVENSONG**

Reflection: Rev Jill Renison

Lead: TBD

Hymns: 382 & 380

Welcomers: Graham Pratt & Liz Pratt

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair but whose presence is overwhelming: breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

## **AT THE TIME OF CHOOSING AN INCUMBENT**

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak to your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment, and patience, and give to us warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

## **SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK**

Morning prayer will be Monday to Thursday this week. (There will be no morning prayer for the week beginning 15 February.)

Tuesday 12 noon: Eucharist

*Future Dates to Note for the Diary*

25 April: ANZAC Day morning prayer on this day at 9am will focus on peace and an observance of ANZAC Day. This will be a short service with readings and music.

13 May: Patronal Festival, followed by lunch. Details to follow.

2 June: Dedication of the Organ. 2pm.

8 June: Organ Concert. Please let Fiona Hudgson know if you can assist with catering for the night.

## **THANKS**

Thank you to everyone who assisted in some way with your observance of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. A special thanks to Adrienne Bolch for her detailed work on our Paschal candle, to all the helpers in the kitchen, servers, musicians, flower decorators, readers and eucharistic assistants.

## FROM THE ACTING VICAR

Dear friends,

Christ is risen, Alleluia! Alleluia! Let me begin by thanking all who were involved in some way in our Easter celebrations. Your efforts and engagement made our worship sacramental and of great joy.

Every year we proclaim with joy the resurrection of Christ that is the basis of our faith and our hope. Yet every year we do so against the background of a troubled world.

Although the message of Easter is one of hope, it is always a hope that is tinged with fear and uncertainty. Every one of the Gospel accounts of the post-Crucifixion world suggests this, so perhaps we ought not to be surprised that our experiences continue to reflect this reality.

This is, I think, helpful to acknowledge at a time when any overarching triumphalism the churches may attempt to muster, even at Easter, has been made to ring hollow by the combined effects of our own failures, Covid, and the increasing secularisation of society. I was pleased that ABC Radio in its various forms gave significant time with music and talk appropriate for the Holy season. Disappointingly, the same cannot be said of much of the print media.

Increasingly, any hint of uncritical triumphalism in the Christian community sounds more a 'head in the sand' hankering after the past rather than the announcement of a bright future. Many of our churches, while attracting many more attenders over Holy week and Easter Day, are struggling to survive, and as Old Testament scholar Walter Bruggemann says, we are a church in exile in many parts of our Australian community, and this fact, he goes on to say, is a great hope for the future if we acknowledge it not as a yearning for the past but embracing the present and future. This will involve speaking truth to power, serving others and not seeking privilege, recognizing our failures, outreach to the lonely, the isolated and fearful, and reading the scriptures in the context of the day in which they were written and seeking to understand their message for today's community of which we are part.

I agree with Bruggemann (and many others) who speak about the power of exile and conclude that this is no bad thing.

“Living with a hope that rests on a background of uncertainty and even a hint of fear takes us firmly back into the place of the apostles’ first encounters with the risen Lord. It is only out of such a place that we can be truly surprised, even astounded, at the power of the resurrection. The return of Christ is not the story for a comfortable, triumphal church, but rather a story for a faithful, uncertain people looking for glimmers of light in the darkness.”

May our prayer this Easter be that each of us will experience the power of the resurrected Christ in our own lives and, like Mary Magdalene and the other apostles, be empowered to bring that power, light, and hope into a world in which uncertainty and fear remain all too common states of being.

On behalf of the clergy and Parish Council, we wish everyone a holy and joyful Easter season.

Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Centre following the services.

Fr Ray

## **FINDING GOD IN MARK’S GOSPEL**

The next in the three-part series will be held after Church and morning tea at 11:30am on Sunday 21 April. All are welcome. It does not matter if you have not attended the Zoom sessions before.

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council met on 19<sup>th</sup> March. A quotation for repairs to the roof above the organ chamber is being arranged, and they will be asked to inspect and quote for other repairs to the roof to address the issue of leakage. Parishioners will be encouraged to consider further tax-deductible donations via MACO. Minor changes to the Development Agreement continue to be requested by the Diocese. A Committee will be formed to work on the arrangements for the dedication of the organ on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the inaugural concert on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Any parishioner who would like to be involved should contact Fiona Hudgson. The issue of the vibration of the glass in the Lady Chapel was discussed, and advice will be sought, but the installation of dampeners may be the most cost-effective solution. Parishioners are urged to use the steps from the car park, where there is a hand-rail, rather than the slope. Volunteers to drive people to and from church on a Sunday will be sought.

## **CHURCH LAW AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW: DO THESE NEED TO COLLIDE?**

This lecture will canvass where there have been apparent collisions between anti-discrimination law and church law and practice (for example, on women and LGBTIQ issues), whether there needs to be a collision, what the limits of anti-discrimination law are as it interacts with church law and affects churches and where our values may suggest that we support anti-discrimination law.

The sixth Robin Sharwood Lecture will be delivered by Ms Mandy Tibbey, barrister. Mandy Tibbey has practised at the New South Wales Bar since 2004 practising mainly in equity, commercial and administrative law. She serves as Chancellor of the Diocese of Riverina and is a member of the Church Law Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia. She has been briefed in various professional disciplinary matters involving Anglicans, including before the Appellate Tribunal, the Supreme Court of Tasmania and the Professional Standards Boards of several dioceses.

## **STATEMENT BY THE ANGLICAN BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA ON THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

We, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia, gathered at Bendigo on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 unanimously affirm the following statement.

As we enter into Holy Week, we lament the suffering due to the ongoing war in the Holy Land. In the spirit of Jesus Christ who said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” we pray for a just and lasting peace, for the release of all hostages, and for urgent aid to be delivered to civilians in Gaza.

In praying for peace in the Holy Land, we particularly pray for strength for our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank who, under the shadow of war, prepare to commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Anglicans across Australia are already praying for peace in this time. We know that this prayer will be shared in every church this Holy Week and Easter.

As we lament the ongoing suffering we condemn antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiment which is on the rise in our own society.

We appeal to all Australians to treat others as they would like to be treated, and we commit ourselves to work with other faith leaders for the common good for all Australians.

## **REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP**

The Refugee Support Group will be meeting Monday April 8 at 2pm in the Dempster Room to discuss our activities for the coming year. For more information contact Karen Dew on 03 9850 5026. All are welcome!

## **ST JOHN'S PANTRY APPEAL**

Each week, St John's gathers non-perishable food and other goods to aid those who are struggling. This month Anglicare will receive our donations for redistribution. Please consider donating and if you cannot donate food, donations can be made through the parish website. [events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au) or 03 8342 0126.

## **BREAD RUN**

The team that does the weekly Bread Run to CamCare have recently lost some good long-serving volunteers. As such, we are currently one volunteer down and are looking for someone who can join the team by donating about 90 minutes of their time, once a month, on a Thursday afternoon.

The role involves: driving to a Mont Albert based bakery by 5.00pm (when the bakery closes); collecting the left over bread after the bakery closes, and loading into your vehicle; driving it back to CamCare (in Camberwell); unloading the Bread at CamCare.

This is a very rewarding volunteering role which makes a genuine difference to people in our community that are currently struggling. Please Contact **Rod Manning on 0433 489 498** if interested. Full training provided, as someone will accompany you to show you the ropes the first time you are rostered.

## **USED STAMPS**

St John's Church is still collecting used stamps for ABM. Please leave them at the office or give them to me at a service.

Jeanette Jasper, Co-ordinator



The Reverend TW Thomas practicing his golf on the lawn of the old vicarage.

*(Image courtesy of St John's Archive  
kbfisk@yahoo.com)*



## **ARCHIVES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

A couple of issues that have been raised concerning the oral history project. Last Sunday week, I handed out questionnaires to people who showed an interest in taking part in this project. First, I didn't date the questionnaire so consider its date to be March, 2024. The important date, however, is that of when the questionnaire is completed, so please write the date of that on your response. Second, people are rightly concerned about writing anything sensitive, controversial and the like. Please answer only what you would like to and feel comfortable about. If you want to keep all or part of your response anonymous, don't put your name to that material and state that you wish it to be anonymous. The whole purpose of the exercise is to record the eyewitness accounts of parishioners' life at St. John's in order to gain a historical perspective of St John's Parish and nothing more. If you wish to participate in the oral history project and don't have a questionnaire, please get in touch.

Kent Fisk, kbfish@yahoo.com

## ***THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN***

*The Melbourne Anglican* (TMA), in line with its environmental and financial responsibilities, is now an online-only magazine for seven of its eleven annual editions. The four annual printed editions will still be available for collection from St. John's. The current edition is available online at <https://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma/> and printed copies are now available in the church.

**GETHSEMANE, BY MARY OLIVER**

The grass never sleeps.

Or the roses.

Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,  
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,  
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe  
the wind wound itself into a Silver tree, and didn't move,  
maybe

the lake far away, where once he walked as on a  
blue pavement,  
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not  
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,  
So utterly human, knowing this too  
must be a part of the story.

## **YEAR'S MIND THIS WEEK**

Jean Brownell, Jean Friend, Margaret Henfrey, Betty Mills, Jean Cheshire, Nell Thomson, Nance Williams, James Moorhouse (Bp) Norman Manton, Robert Dann (Bp), and Colin Amos.

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

Today we include in our prayers especially: Jennifer, Ian and family, Helen, Sue, Noel, Mavis, Rosemary, Jonathan, Bernard, Josie, Christie & family, Des & Jane, Margaret, Gordon, Ian and family, Bp Peter Hollingworth.

## **CHANGES TO PRAYER LIST ADMISSION**

As an experiment, we are going to change the way we list people to be included in your prayers. The Year's Mind list will continue unchanged. The other list will now be in two categories. Christian names only will be used, and anyone can request that names be included. In the first category will be people who require prayer for a finite period: some of these people will be parishioners and other people known to parishioners. Names will stay on this list for four weeks, and removed after that time unless another four-week listing is requested. In the second category will be people who have been active members of St John's in the past, but who are now house-bound. Having this new list will be a way of upholding long-standing, but now less independent, members in our praying life. It will be a way of keeping them 'front of mind' even though they can not join us week by week. These people will remain on the list for as long as they remain house-bound.

# ST JOHN'S CONTACT.

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*Morning (9.00am) and Evening Prayer (4.00pm) Mondays to Fridays.*

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	Eucharist in the Chapel
<b>Wednesdays (1st)</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Iona Eucharist (starting 3 April)
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	Eucharist
	<b>10.00am</b>	Choral Eucharist
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Choral Evensong

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## Saint John's Donations

Our worship and outreach are sustained by the generosity of our friends and supporters. We give in thanksgiving for all that we have received and are deeply thankful for the generosity of those who make our work possible. We couldn't do it without you!



## Choral Scholars Appeal

By donating to the Choral Scholars program, you will help continue the wonderful musical tradition at St. John's. By maintaining weekly services of choral and classical masterpieces we keep a rich aspect of Anglican tradition and English cultural heritage alive. Please give generously!



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