

The Anglican Parish of Glenelg

A vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community growing in faith and love

Weekly News and Pew Sheet

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 29TH MARCH 2020

WORSHIP THEME: THE BREATH OF LIFE

PARISH PRIEST'S MESSAGE

Thank you to those who joined in worship and Vestry meeting last week. It was a very poignant service and I know many of you have watched it on Facebook. I appreciate that many observed health advice to stay away due to being in a high risk group because of age or other health issues. Many of those people made contact to give apologies for the vestry meeting and showing that interest was very much appreciated too. Thank you to Terry Leane who has accepted becoming People's Warden for St Peter's. Henry Schafing has stepped down from that role and we thank him for his wonderful service.

We will continue to post services, prayers and music on Facebook and keep this weekly news sheet going. Feel free to share these with others who may not be receiving them directly from us. I am very aware that probably only half our people are seeing this emailed newsletter and the Facebook page. We will try to produce a printed newsletter for Easter to email or deliver to the whole parish in order to reach everyone at this time.

This week Michele, Margaret and I went through the parish roll and the email lists to ascertain who is not getting these emails and to make contact with those people who are only on phone. If there are parishioners that you chat with each week at church, I encourage you to ring them once a week to keep those bonds of fellowship going.

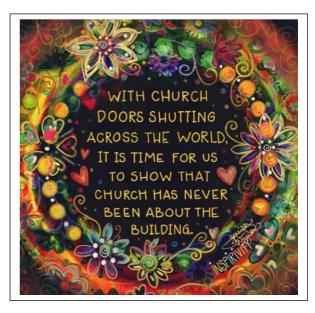
At this stage the parish office is still open, this will need to be reviewed as we go along. Some parishioners have popped in to drop off planned giving envelopes and donations for the food cupboard. Thank you for your commitment. I am very aware of government directives to stay home unless absolutely necessary, so I am not encouraging people to come to the office in person. If you are passing on your walk and you want to deliver envelopes or food then do so, but please consider carefully directives to stay safe and minimise risk. If you are isolating as much as possible then please save up your giving envelopes at home so they can be delivered at some point, or if you would like them picked up please let us know. Details of online giving can be found in the notices section.

Christ's peace be with you all at this time. Andrew.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR SUNDAY 29th MARCH The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Reflection

Once again this week the readings are so relevant to what we are facing. Like the vision of Ezekiel, our streets may well remind us of the valley of dry bones. Fewer people around and closed up cafes, pubs and shops. Losing faith at such a time will only increase the sense of 'dryness'. Ezekiel's vision reminds us that the breath of the Spirit brings new life. This is powerfully shown in the raising of Lazarus in the Gospel reading. Now more than ever we need the breath of the Spirit in our lives, for as St Paul says in Romans: *If the*



Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. I pray that in some unexpected ways this coming week, the Spirit will blow through your lives and you will have a sense of being given life even in the midst of dryness.

A prayer for Lent

Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give. Amen.

A Prayer for Today's Theme

Holy One, we are listening for a word from you. Speak to the dry and brittle places of our hearts. Help us to come alive again. Fill us with your breath, that we might proclaim the power of your Spirit with our words and with our lives. Amen.

Scripture Sentence for the Day - John 11:25-26

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, in the midst of death, you offer life. In the midst of despair, you offer hope. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, you offer a new way of seeing things, a new way of understanding things. Help us to remember this always as we live in the light and life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



A reading from the book of Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

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Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130 A.P.B.A. page 364

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear my voice;

2 O let your ears consider well: the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:

who then, O Lord, could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you:

so that you shall be feared.

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:

and in his word is my hope.

6 My soul looks for the Lord:

more than watchmen for the morning, more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:

and with him is ample redemption.

8 He will redeem Israel:

from the multitude of their sins.

Second Reading Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the book of Romans

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord: whoever believes in me will not die for ever Alleluia

Gospel John 11:1-45

▼ The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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Next Week: 5th April 2020 – Palm Sunday Theme: The Journey of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 21:1-11

Diary dates (please note cancellations)

This week:

Sunday 29th March

7:45, 8:45 and 10am services are cancelled

5pm Evensong for 100th anniversary of founding of St. Michael's Chapel—POSTPONED until November.

Tuesday 31st March

7:30pm Christmas Tree Festival Planning – Meeting Cancelled

PARISH NOTICES

SMALL GROUPS IN THE PARISH

Small groups are no longer able to meet face to face. We encourage you to keep in touch by various means. Phone, email or an online ZOOM meeting. I encourage all small group leaders to have some communication with your group in the coming weeks.

LENTEN STUDY FOR 2020 - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Two sessions to go but these can no longer meet in person. Michele will be in touch with you to arrange holding the last two sessions with you via an online link.

CVS VISITORS

Please note that CVS visitors have been asked to no longer visit in person, but you are encouraged to make contact through phone, email, postcards and sms. All of these can be counted as "visits". The coordinating auspice can make stamps available to assist with postage if needed. Speak to Hewina in the office for details.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL MEETING – The meeting for this Tuesday has been cancelled. At this stage we are uncertain what restrictions will be in place by late November, we are hopeful that it may still go ahead but this will be reviewed as the year unfolds. Please continue to work behind the scenes on your Christmas projects. Contact Blake McInnes 0477703866 Email stpetersctfestival@gmail.com

COLLECTION OF BOTTLE TOPS

PLEASE NOTE the collection for Lids4Kids has been temporarily suspended. People can still collect lids at home but will be asked to keep them there longer in case of contamination. We will instruct further on this in due course.

PLANNED GIVING FOR THIS YEAR

Quite a number of parishioners have asked about how they can continue their giving at this time. Thank you. With the removal of Open plate, baptism and wedding donations and fundraising as lines of income, it will be a very tough year financially. Finance Committee and Parish Council, who will meet via online link, will review this regularly, and I assume we will need some austerity measures as the year goes on, but I believe we can get there. Our shared planned giving will help us survive. I am fully aware that some may be experiencing job loss and income downturn. We can each do only what we are able and pray that it will be enough. For envelope users, please continue to put them aside every week as you can. These can be collected occasionally if needed (please ring the office). For those who can do online banking this may be the time to swap to direct debit. Regular planned giving can be directed to Parish of Glenelg (AFSA) BSB 705-777 Account Number 00041211 (please use your surname and initial SMITHJ PGP). One off/occasional donations that are not part of regular PGP can be made to Anglican Parish of Glenelg BSB 705-077 Account No.00000033.

CALL TO PRAYER

Archbishop Geoff has called on church communities to pause for prayer at **8am every Friday from now until at least Pentecost**. This pause can be for just a few minutes to pray for:

- an end to the pandemic
- healing for people suffering from the illness
- those researching a vaccine
- our political and community leaders as they try to provide
- wise leadership
- our health workers as they are at the front line

Can we help? Contact Prayer People through: Vi: 8295 5726 / vekeam@bigpond.com Ros: 8298 5308 / neville.cordes@bigpond.com Sandy: 8298 5175 / sandyandy@esc.net.au

A suitable prayer could be...

Almighty and All—loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, We pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid—19 in Australia and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss

of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,

skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,

comfort to everyone in distress

and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown. Amen.

by Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dublin & Glendalough



Kingsley Oakley, Kel Pittman, Rosalie & Phil Brown, Tim Went, Nicole Cain, Pat Donnelly, Dot, Melanie Lyons, Daniel Roach, Clare, Jeremy Johnson, Nicky Heal, Dawn, Sheryl Anne Cox, Tony Tamblyn, Helen Williams.

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF GLENELG

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