



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

June 20th 2021 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PARISH VISION

Preparing the way for the love of Jesus Christ to reach all people.

A YEAR OF FULFILLING POTENTIAL

On Vision Sunday the Rector designated 2021 to be a Year of fulfilling your Holy Spirit shape and potential.



Sentence

Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? Mark 4.41

Prayer of the Week

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs please contact Rector of Leongatha- Graham Knott
0490 045 581 rectorleongatha@gmail.com

Associate Priest- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

Weekly Services of Holy Communion – St Peter’s Leongatha

Sunday

Holy Communion - 8am, 10:30am

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 11am followed by a Community Lunch

Service of Holy Communion- St David’s Meeniyan

Friday 7:30pm – 1st and 3rd Friday of the Month

Service of Holy Communion -St Andrew’s Tarwin lower

2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month 10:30am

There is **no need to pre-register or “book in”** for a service. It is still a government requirement however that we keep, for a temporary period of time, the name and a contact number of every person that attends a service. This can be provided at the door on the day you attend.

Financial Stewardship

Leongatha Anglican Church

Electronic banking details **BSB Number** 083 735 **Account Number** 515883623.

Cheques may be posted to PO Box 271, Leongatha, Vic 3953. Payable to ‘Leongatha Anglican Church Parish Council Parish Account’.

Readings – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Nehemiah 1:5-11 Psalm 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

Hymns – To be advised on the day

1. God be merciful to me
2. O Lord hear my prayer
3. I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus
4. We have not known thee as we ought

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Saturday 19th June- St Peter’s Garden Working Bee

Bring your gardening gloves, shovels, trowel and secateurs for a garden makeover! Contact Brigid Kennedy for more info 0404912370

June- July Rosters

Rosters are now available in hard copy in the Narthex, they have also been distributed via email.

Covid Update

Recent government announcements have allowed face to face ministry to return at St Peter's with a maximum of 75 people per service. **Masks are currently required indoors so please bring one along when you attend.** Due to relaxing of restriction we are now back to our **2 regular services, 8am and 10:30am.** There is no need to prebook your attendance at a service, please just come as normal. If you have any questions, please be in touch with a staff member. At the moment households are only able to receive **5 visitors** a day and this regulation may have an affect on small groups.

Nehemiah Series

Over the coming months parishioners at St Peter's will be exploring a sermon series on the book of Nehemiah. This is to prepare us for fresh vision for the future, incorporating the parish council's discernment of our parish vision, the new Diocesan vision, as well as, future building developments.

Songs & Stories- Episode 7- Barry

Songs & Stories is an outreach ministry of St Peter's Anglican Church Leongatha. An opportunity to get to know Christians in the local community and hear about their faith and the songs that have touched their lives. To view click on the link below or search the St Peter's YouTube channel.



<https://youtu.be/LN3W-IKf6Qc>

Kids and Youth Band

Expressions of interest are encouraged as planning has started on a St Peter's Kids and Youth band! Hooray! There will be a 'come and try' session at 1230pm on Sunday June 20th June in St Peter's. If you would like more information please contact Leanne Langkopf on 0410007979

Stay Informed- Are you on the mailing list?

Please keep reading your emails and newsletters to keep up to date with the changing and evolving Covid-19 situation in the state, as well as, the Leongatha Community. If you know of anyone who would appreciate being on our email mailing list, please encourage them to forward their contact to 0438 622721 or ministryleongatha@gmail.com

The Gippsland Anglican – June Edition

[TGA June 21FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/TGA_June_21FINAL.pdf)

Recording of 10:30 Sunday Service

Each Sunday our 10:30 service is recorded to upload onto the St Peter's Youtube Channel. Each week this is watched by approximately 50+ people connected with the Parish. If there is something that is deeply personal you do not wish to be shared online, for example a personal testimony, please inform Doug Kelly or a member of staff on the day of recording so that the final clip can be edited before published online.

Excess Garden Produce?

The Wednesday Community Lunch Team are committed to providing highly nutritious homemade and where possible locally sourced food. If your garden is particularly abundant and you would like to donate fresh produce to this program please see a member of staff. The Community Lunch is held every Wednesday starting from 11:45am in the St Peter's Hall- All welcome.

Readings for Next Week Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Nehemiah 1:10-2:10

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

LET US PRAY

Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. Philippians 4:8 NKJV

- Praise God for His name and the works of his hands.
- Praise and give thanks for Jesus, his death and resurrection.
- Praise God that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- Having seen the awesome power of wind and rain remember those who are without homes, power, light and warmth.
- Pray for those who are still working to get things cleared up and power restored.
- Praise God for lifting of restrictions in Melbourne. Pray for the continuing administration of vaccinations.
- Pray for those countries where the Covid situation is still not improving or is indeed worsening. Pray particularly for the people of India as they encounter a black fungus.
- Pray for Israel and ongoing incendiaries from Gaza with Israel retaliating.

- Pray for Myanmar as a village is burned to the ground.
- Pray for one another that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give to each of us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened so that we may know the hope of His calling” Ephesians 1:17-18



GRAHAM GEMS 20th June 2021

I wonder if you ever think of yourself as in a battle. Most of us would like to think of ourselves with gentler words. However we join with humanity in battling the pandemic. We battle temptations which are intensely personal for us. One person's temptation is another's relaxation or recreation especially where the former is addicted. Some of

us battle to pay our bills or to keep our heads above water.

The apostle Paul, in his writings, often refers to his life as a battle. In Ephesians where Paul describes the nature of the powerful defence that the armour of God provides, he begins by saying, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

(6:10) Paul returns to this theme in 2 Corinthians which we read today. The

first part of his list is about harsh experiences that Christians can expect –

“great endurance; troubles, hardships and distresses; beatings, imprisonments and riots; hard work, sleepless nights and hunger.” (2

Corinthians 6:4-6) God certainly never promised us a rose garden!

However Paul's descriptions of his sufferings takes a sudden totally

unexpected turn. All mature Christians face really challenging situations which push us to the limits of our capacity to cope. The surprising factor is

that Paul speaks of the great struggle he faces “in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as

unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” (6:6-10) In other words the struggle for Paul isn't simply when the bad and hard things come against him – but also when he does the best things from the best motivation and they are counted as worthless by others. These are the biggest challenges of all. Only God and us know our hearts. God searches the hidden things of our hearts. Only God can judge those things. Yet we must live in a society and environments which are so challenged by good that they must destroy it. “Purity, understanding, patience and kindness, for example, are not news. Good news is not news at all. Only bad news makes it to the media. The tendency to be suspicious and destructive of the good defines our Australian culture. And whether we like it or not the reason is that our culture is still based on the fallacy of traditional male stereotypes. Show me a man who demonstrates “purity, understanding, patience and kindness” in our culture and I will show you the same man who our culture seeks to destroy.

Our expectations of the ones who wear the armour of God and who will show us the way as champions are generally not those who demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit. Rather we look for human saviours and champions. We want those who will power through to victory and fight our battles for us. We have to have such a hero in every film who is generally a strong, masculine figures. We know the strength of our hero. The thing about Jesus is that he is as far from such a stereotype as it is possible to be. While the disciples are battling against the storm with all that they have, in today's Gospel reading, Jesus is asleep in the boat – having forty winks. “Teacher, don't you care that we drown?”; the disciples shout. Evidently what they expected of a saviour is not what Jesus is delivering. At the very least he could have assisted with bailing out the water! These men were terrified by the storm and stunned that Jesus is not helping them or even apparently concerned. Jesus demonstrates his authority and the storm is stilled. Now the disciples are described as terrified. Jesus will not fit their expectations of a hero but also blows apart their awareness of how the world is and works. They needed a reality check because Jesus evidently lived in a different reality.

When this incident begins with the disciples jumping into the boat, the narrative describes something extremely important in a few easily missed words. “They took Jesus along, just as he was.” What does that mean? Anyone who has genuinely sung the hymn, ‘Just as I am’ will know that these words can hold deep and profound meaning. Perhaps it means that Jesus will not be reshaped into or defined by human expectation. Here is someone in their presence who teaches and acts like nobody they have encountered before. When they think they are drowning and cry out for help Jesus is surprised that they, the inner circle, haven't worked out who he is despite his special teaching for them. Jesus brings the help they need but with a rebuke

to following. The question is, whether we will take Jesus with us on our life's journey 'just as he is' or will we try to reshape him to fit our expectation? The truth is that it is only through the battles and storms that we will mature spiritually. One verse from the hymn:

*"Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!"*