



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

February 28th 2021 – Second Sunday in Lent

PARISH VISION

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

A YEAR OF FULFILLING PONTENTIAL

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

Sentence

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. Mark 8.34

Prayer of the Week

Remember, O Lord,
what you have wrought in us
and not what we deserve,
and, as you have called us to your
service,
make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ 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 now **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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:24-32

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Hymns

116 Begin my tongue some heavenly theme

583 Take up your cross

498 [Coeli Domini Public Domain] draw nigh and take the body of the Lord

473 Community of Christ

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Vision Sunday. A few weeks ago we thought about all the fresh opportunities and ministries that God has for us during 2021. Vision is exciting and fills us with hope as we begin to anticipate all the wonderful things that God can do. But vision, mission and ministry costs sacrificially. It is the call to be urgent in prayer for the work of our parish that we would share the good news of Jesus in an infectious way. It is the call to serve willingly, with joy and a sense of fun as we see the Holy Spirit bring things to life around us. It is the call

to give financially joyfully and sacrificially. Everything costs more to run nowadays - including God's work. We should never try to do God's work on the cheap. God multiplies resources which are always insufficient for the needs. Most of us Australians need to realise that we have among the lowest percentages of people attending church in the world. Only 7% of people in Australia attend church weekly which is a tiny percentage compared to many African or American nations. Australia is among the greatest mission fields in the world and it is on our doorstep. Please consider increasing the amount you give to support the work of the church here. We encourage everyone to contribute by electronic fund transfer if possible. Our bank details are elsewhere on the pew leaflet. Pray urgently. Serve willingly. Give joyfully. Let's fulfil the vision together.

3rd March- Gems Meeting

The inter-church men's Christian fellowship group GEMS (God's Ecumenical Men Servants) will meet at St. Laurence's Roman Catholic Church, Leongatha on **Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30 pm**. Mr. Robert Sage will speak about the role of Cemetery Trusts.

5th March - World Day of Prayer 2021- Vanuatu

Friday 5th March at 10:30am and 7:30am at the Uniting Church Peart St Leongatha. Followed by light refreshments.

9th March- Bible Society- Thank You Fellowship Gathering

An opportunity to hear about the work of the Bible Society- Light refreshments provided. Tuesday 9th March 1:45pm for a 2pm start. Leongatha Uniting Church, 16 Peart St, Leongatha. RSVP Rhiannon on 0417 467 076 or email thankyou@biblesociety.org.au

20th March - Homey Roast Dinner Night- Welcome Dinner

Our next Welcome Dinners will be held the 20th March. If you know of anyone who is new to the Parish or community and would like to attend please contact Belinda 0438 622721

Stay Informed

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 Belinda or Graham. **No masks required indoors.**

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.

Tween Bible Study and Group

For more information or to receive a time table of events please contact Brigid Kennedy 0404 912 370

Readings for Next Week Second Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

LET US PRAY

Great is thy faithfulness.

- Praise and thank God for his faithfulness to us as a community, as family, as individuals.
- Praise Him for every day blessings, those things we take for granted - fresh water, food, clothing, fresh air, creation around us, sunshine, rain.....
- Pray for countries around the World particularly Myanmar and India.
- Pray for the countries who are still struggling to keep Covid cases down and for the roll out of the vaccine, particularly in the world's poorer countries.
- Pray for those who begin courses at University this week, pray that as students they settle into the new environment and quickly find friends. Pray for those who are living away from home or travelling between home and their place of study.
- Pray for those who are sick or recovering from surgery.
- Pray for those who find themselves locked into situations which are found to be abusive, manipulative or demeaning.
- Pray for those who feel unloved or unwanted, that society has pushed aside.



GRAHAM GEMS

February 28th 2021

Many Christians use self-protective mechanisms to try to protect themselves because they have faced very difficult things in the past. It is a challenge to let these things go when we come before Christ. For others it is simply the hardest thing to drop their pretense of being OK and instead choose to be honest and authentic with other people and even with God. 'After all', so the reasoning goes, 'if God allowed me to be hurt then why should I be open to God and fully love

God?' Of course none of us are responsible for what happened to us when we were very young and for what others did to us to hurt us. The challenge is that we began to adopt strategies which helped us to cope with the pain when we were a child. As we grew those strategies became more and more sophisticated and we built walls around ourselves. As adults we get to the stage where these strategies become very isolating leaving us separated from many other people. In fact, some people become so defensive and independent that it becomes almost impossible for them to give and to receive love. We naturally don't want to be hurt again in the way that we have been in the past and so we can easily avoid trusting anyone. To live in such a way is to deny the reality of who Jesus Christ really is. Such people build a view of themselves which does not permit change and a view of Jesus which does not allow his transforming presence to break in through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls all who know him to always be growing and changing. This is part of the purpose of Lent before Easter. During these forty days the intention is that we commit ourselves to transformation and growth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus calls us and says, "if anyone would come after me, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a person to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?" When Jesus was alive and a person was carrying a cross it only meant one thing: death. The death to which Jesus calls us in these verses is self-denial. We are called to deny ourselves and follow Jesus.

For many people denying themselves means giving up everything that makes them happy. Other people indicate that it means being trodden on by everybody else. Other people might think that it means enduring any suffering that comes their way. This can range from physical illness to the challenge of living in a difficult relationship. However, when Jesus spoke

about our denying ourselves he was not preoccupied with any of these things.

Jesus calls us to turn from the old direction of our lives which is defined by our independence and rebellion and to turn to God and allow the Holy Spirit to shape us. This means that we will have to die to all of those false protective strategies by which we think that we can live successfully. This is among the most challenging of choices we are called to make. If Lent becomes a time when we genuinely put aside our self-protective strategies for the Holy Spirit to heal then we will be truly prepared for the joyful celebration of Easter. We will have understood what it means to be a new creation in Christ.