



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 27th September 2020

PARISH VISION

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

A YEAR OF MISSION

On Vision Sunday the Rector designated 2020 to be a Year of Mission.

Sentence

Come, let us return to the Lord,
that we may live before Him.
Hosea 6. 1a, 2b

Readings

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 11-16
Philippians 2
Matthew 21:23-32



Prayer of the Week

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace that, running in the way of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Assistant Curate and Response Coordinator- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

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'.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

A Note from the Rector

During the last few weeks I've covered hundreds of kilometres discovering where most of our contacts live and dropping off various things. It has been really interesting to appreciate fully just how widespread an area our congregational membership covers. It has been most interesting because the GPS on my phone has stopped working. It gives me the first instruction then no others until 'you have arrived at your destination!' It has been a blessing to have brief chats with some, to receive messages of thanks from the many and to be encouraged at the resilience of the Lord's people. Many of you chose to receive Samaritans Purse shoeboxes and the time draws near for them to start their journey overseas. Please hold on to any that you have. I will contact you by phone and let you know roughly when I will be picking them up from your doorstep. It's wonderful to be part of a congregation that is still thinking about the needs of others at a time such as this. God bless you all.

Op Shop News

The St Peter's Op-Shop has re-opened Wednesday- Friday. If you are able and would like to volunteer to help with this important ministry please contact Kaye 0409 686 233 or Coral 0409 165 227

Songs & Stories

Songs & Stories have released their 3rd video featuring Mandy Breeze-Kelly from our Wednesday congregation. It is available on the St Peter's YouTube channel or accessed by clicking the link below. Songs & Stories is an outreach ministry of St Peter's and is aimed at sharing the Good News of Jesus with the wider community through testimony and music. Please share with others.

<https://youtu.be/TkQWknPvmws>



Vocation Sunday

In recent years our Diocese has focused on vocations on the Sunday nearest to St Matthews's day. Jesus Christ calls all the baptised into ministry within the church and world bringing hope, comfort and peace as all are served. For some this means giving themselves wholly to their current working environment. For others it means serving as Lay Readers or ordained either in parish ministry, chaplaincy or the workplace. What matters is our individual response to the call of God. If you sense that God may be moving you forward in these areas Bishop Richard or Graham Knott (0490045581) would love to hear from you and explore the next stage of the journey with you.

Care Packages

Deliveries continue throughout the Parish, thanks for your patience and encouragement.

Resources for staying active at home

This is a recent resource for exercises & physical activity for older people that can be done at home. We thought this may be helpful for some.

<https://www.safeexerciseathome.org.au/>

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is a structured half hour service that includes Old and New testament Bible readings, a time for reflection and discussion of the Scriptures and a time to pray together. Morning Prayer is offered Monday to Friday at 9am via Zoom. It is easy to join and a special way to meet and worship together in the current lock down.

If you are interested please contact Belinda or Maryann Ashton – maryannashton423@gmail.com

HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

St Peter's Church is currently connecting via, home phone, mobile phone, email, website, Facebook, YouTube and Zoom. If you need some help with technology please be in touch, we would be happy to help you.

Readings for next week 4th October

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3

Matthew 21:33-46

The Gippsland Anglican September Edition

The Gippsland Anglican is now available online

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_Sep_20FINAL.pdf

Recent celebrations of the Daffodil festival at Koorooman House featuring work by Jim Geary



LET US PRAY

I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. Ps. 63:6-8

- Praise God that he is always available.
- Praise God for his amazing love and patience.
- Pray for the countries in the World where there is an increase in Covid cases and deaths even as we can praise God for the decrease here and the hope of further removal of restrictions.
- Pray for leaders of Governments around the world particularly where there is political unrest.
- Pray for the various forms of media, that they would report honestly and with wisdom.
- Pray for those who are coping with depression, particularly those who are suffering in silence.

- Pray for those who are waiting for medical procedures and suffering pain.
- Pray for those who await the opening of borders or a place on a plane to return home to be with family or loved ones.

Prayer Chain

For prayer chain requests please contact Maryann Ashton on 0438 644 315



GRAHAM'S GEMS 27th September 2020

There is arguably one question that matters in your and every other life – *'where is the foundation for authority?'* The answer to that single question directs how we live. It is not a new question and has been asked by every generation since the creation of the world. The authority question was the first faced by humanity in the Garden of Eden as the voice of satan competed with the voice of God and satan won. In every generation since then satan has won although that voice comes to people in different ways and with increasing sophistication. In the 'me' generation we have changed the nature of God to reflect what I want God to be such that we create a comfortable authority structure for our lives. The outworking of this is that we have no framework for understanding suffering. When I think I have sole authority, God apparently exists to provide me with the answer to my prayers that I want. It has been many years since I heard more than one or two relate an answer to prayer that went something like, *'I prayed and God gave me peace about choosing the toughest and most challenging alternative where I went against all the cultural, social and emotional pressure on me.'* Generally people say, *'we prayed and God gave such peace as we went along with the crowd. Don't try to convince me that this isn't the voice of God. We are so at peace.'* God has become the benevolent father figure – all loving, all caring, all peace-giving, all non-disruptive, all joy giving, all stress removing – and that for Christians. The previous generation of non-believers has become the current generation of believers and we have brought a worldly view of a God who is gutless, powerless and definitely non-threatening into the church. God exists to make me and my fellow believers feel good. Of course, there is truth in all this – God cares deeply for all his creation and especially people. Jesus Christ,

God made human, died as a human to lead us to God. There is no greater expression of out poured love and self-surrender in the world. God is our Father. The human suffering of God is the revealed answer to suffering in the world. This is crucial because most people's view of God, their view of authority, is either because of, or in spite of their experience and understanding of suffering.

Yet God is *Our Father in heaven*. This makes God altogether different from us and always to be approached with holy awe and reverence – *'Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.'*

(Ecclesiastes 5:2) Authority can only be rightly understood when we hold together God who is Father and God who is in heaven. These are like pedals on a push bike. At times we emphasize the Fatherhood of God and that takes the holy distinctiveness of God from us. At times we emphasize the holiness and power of Almighty God and lose the sense of intimate fatherhood. The aim is to keep the bike going forward to apply authority rightly in our lives. *Our Father in heaven, hallowed.....always.*

Albert Camus (1913-60) describes the attitude which rebels against the authority of God whilst holding to intimacy with God.

"The rebel defies more than he denies. Originally, at least, he does not suppress God; he merely talks to Him as an equal. But it is not a polite dialogue. It is a polemic animated by the desire to conquer. The slave begins by demanding justice and ends by wanting to wear a crown. He must dominate in his turn. His insurrection against his condition becomes an unlimited campaign against the heavens for the purpose of bringing back a captive king who will first be dethroned and finally condemned to death.

Human rebellion ends in metaphysical revolution. It progresses from appearances to acts, from the dandy to the revolutionary. When the throne of God is overturned, the rebel realizes that it is now his own responsibility to create the justice, order, and unity that he sought in vain within his own condition, and in this way to justify the fall of God. Then begins the desperate effort to create, at the price of crime and murder if necessary, the dominion of man."