



# The ANGLICAN PARISH of *Leongatha*

May 2nd 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter



## 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

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10–11

## Prayer of the Week

Saving God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to

yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs please contact Rector of Leongatha- Graham Knott  
0490 045 581 [rectorleongatha@gmail.com](mailto:rectorleongatha@gmail.com)

Associate Priest- Belinda Seabrook  
0438 622 721 [ministryleongatha@gmail.com](mailto: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 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month

### **Service of Holy Communion -St Andrew’s Tarwin lower**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:26-32

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

### **Hymns**

393 Christ is alive

551 [457] O stay with us Lord Jesus

513 Bread of heaven

531 Sent forth by God's blessing

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE**

### **May Gippsland Anglican**

Copies of the May Gippsland Anglican are available in the Narthex, to view the online copy please click on this link [TGA May 21final.pdf](#)

[gippsanglican.org.au](http://gippsanglican.org.au)

### **5<sup>th</sup> May GEMS Meeting**

The inter-church men's Christian fellowship group GEMS (God's Ecumenical Men Servants) will meet at RSL, Leongatha on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 pm.** for dinner. Mr. Rob Nyhuis, our guest speaker, will outline the work of "Operation Christmas Child" and his experiences of travel in Israel. **The** evening will conclude with a farewell supper for Rev. Paul Baur, Minister of Leongatha UCA.

### **8<sup>th</sup> May Mulherin's Visit**

Next Sunday we welcome back Tim and Olivia Mulherin to speak to us about their plans for mission.

### **14<sup>th</sup> May 6-830pm Junior Jesus Tween Group (10-14 years)**

Another Friday games night crammed packed with fun, fellowship and Jesus. Dinner provided, bring a friend. Free event, St Peter's Leongatha, Crn McCartin and Bruce St Leongatha. RSVP Brigid 0404 912 370

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May Advanced Notice- Confirmation at Pentecost**

Bishop Richard Treloar will be visiting St Peter's Leongatha at Pentecost. This offers a wonderful opportunity for those who would like to be confirmed with the laying on of hands. If you would like to talk more about Confirmation please talk to Belinda or Graham. Included is a link to a short introduction to the sacrament of Confirmation- <https://youtu.be/ukZgk23pbO4>

### **Monday Nights Alpha 26<sup>th</sup> April- 1<sup>st</sup> June**

St Peter's Church hall 7:30pm-9pm

Come and explore the wonders of Jesus with Alpha. Please share with family friends and the Leongatha community. This is an open invitation. (3 John 4)

### **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.

## 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.**

## Readings for Next Week Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48                  Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-12                 John 15:9-17

## LET US PRAY

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

- Give thanks to Almighty God for his faithfulness.
- Praise Him for his Love and the freedom we have been given in Christ.
- Praise Him for answered prayer and for those things in our everyday lives that we take for granted - fresh water, a home to live in, freedom to worship, life itself.
- Pray for countries where those things are not so. Particularly we pray for India and Brazil at this time. We pray for those places that are ravaged by the Covid virus, where medical staff are exhausted and helpless.
- Pray for countries that are coping with political unrest, for Myanmar, for Indonesia, Hong Kong.
- We pray for the country of Israel, particularly for those who were injured or lost loved ones in the crush of people on Friday at Mount Meron.
- We pray for the visit next weekend of the Mulherins.
- Pray for the Alpha group that began meeting last Monday evening and for those who are preparing for Confirmation.



## **GRAHAM GEMS** **April 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

Endings. I'm not good with endings. I have seen far too many endings over the years. Loved friends sick and dying. Farewells at airports. Who among us would have thought that our farewells in recent years would soon have a sense of permanence about them as COVID struck? The endings of childhood with its moving into fresh frameworks. When I dropped my elder son at University for the first time, I didn't speak a word for 150 minutes. That was a tough moment. Even endings that usher in a new future from a broken past are not altogether joyful. The regrets of a wasted past pile in just as the reality of freedom beckons. I vividly remember visiting a bereaved widow many years ago who was weeping intensely. After a while her sister said, 'She's not weeping because he's died. She's weeping for the life she never had. You need to know that.' From that moment the visit went much better as we acknowledged the reality of the ending. Our nation is built on endings – on many, many people who have left home and all that is familiar for new horizons, many of whom never returned home. 'Home' for many such people remained forever unchanging in their hearts. On many occasions I have visited a pioneer Lutheran cemetery in South Australia. On graves from the mid-nineteenth century are rose bushes still growing and brought from Germany all those years ago. A reminder of home and of endings.

Our reading from John 15 comes in the context of endings. Jesus and the disciples, having left the Upper Room, are on the way to Gethsemane. There were two ways to go each of which went past the Temple. The Temple would have had a wall of glistening gold reflecting in the many candles of the Passover season. The wall was filled with vines made of gold, given by people as memorials to their dead. Memorials which marked endings. Suddenly Jesus says, "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener." Much of the weight of the history of Israel was focused in those few words. When God led a people from slavery in Israel, people who could only identify themselves by their chains, the intention was to build a glorious new future. The land was so fruitful that it was described as needing two people to hold a bunch of grapes on a pole. Worshippers would later describe what God had done as this: "You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land." (Psalm 80:8-9) Out of slavery God's intention was to create

abundant life beyond imagining. Yet the sad truth was that people were unable to move forward, choosing to remain addicted to their former slavery and way of life. The desire of their heart was away from God. So God says, "I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock." How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?" (Jeremiah 2:21) The challenge was that the more blessing God provided, the more people greedily turned to their own pleasures and ways. People were incapable of habitually making good choices for God and turned to worshipping themselves, their achievements and their pleasures: "Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars; as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones. Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt." (Hosea 10:1-2) Sadly even the glorious temple built in Jerusalem became idolatry as people took pride in the beauty of their own potential and achievements.

As Jesus walked towards Gethsemane and an undeserved death on the cross he proclaimed the new reality in a few short words; "I am the true vine." These were powerful words of ending and beginning. Ending because people had blown their past opportunity and now God had to die to create the possibility of new fruitfulness in the future. Beginning because, following the cross, those who choose to become part of the Jesus vine are promised effective and meaningful lives for the kingdom of God. There would be times of pruning and there would be seasons of cutting away for those who choose to live by their former frameworks. The kingdom of God is revealed as much by what is cut away as by what remains. Endings and beginnings. Beginnings and endings. It remains the way with Jesus the true vine.