



The ANGLICAN PARISH of  
*Leongatha*

July 11th 2021 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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### 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 shall stand in the Lord's holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their hands to what is false. Psalm 24.3–4

### Prayer of the Week

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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](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 **no need to pre-register or “book in”** for a service. It is a government requirement that all attending sign in electronically on entry to the Church building via the Services Australia App. If you are unable to do this, please provide your name and phone number on the register provided. Thank you.

### **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 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Nehemiah 2:1-10

Psalms 24

Ephesians 1:1-14

Mark 6:14-29

### **Hymns**

Lord while for humankind we pray [CP St Flavian]

425 Lord teach us how to pray aright

153 God is here as we his people

507 Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE**

### **Safe Ministry**

As a Parish we are committed to Safe ministry and working towards full compliance for all church workers. If you are a part of a team or on a church roster and are yet to complete safe ministry documents please be in touch with Doug Kelly- [safeministry@leongathaanglican.org](mailto:safeministry@leongathaanglican.org)

## **Men's Group**

St Peters Men's Group initially formed online last year during lockdowns. We gathered last month to begin preparing for the future. The next meeting is on Saturday 17th July from 8.30am in the Church Hall. It begins with breakfast so we need to know how many we are catering for. Please let Graham know if you are coming.

## **Staff Availability**

Beginning this week Graham will be on annual leave every Monday for the foreseeable future, this is in addition to Tuesday which is his usual day off.

With the exception of emergencies Graham will be available to contact from Wednesday morning to Sunday afternoon each week.

Belinda will continue to have Tuesdays as her day off and can be contacted throughout the rest of the week.

## **Kids Church**

Kids Church will be resuming on the 18<sup>th</sup> July at St Peter's. A great opportunity for kids to learn more about Jesus and their own identity in Christ.

## **Anglicare Donations**

At the back of church under the welcome desk is an orange basket for collection of food for Anglicare. If you have any non-perishable in date food that you wish to pass on to Anglicare please place in this basket. This donation helps to provide for local vulnerable families in our community.

## **Tea and Coffee Roster – St Peter's**

Currently the refreshments team are looking for more volunteers to help after the 10:30am services. If you can help please contact Pam 0448 140 814

## **Covid Update**

Recent government announcements have allowed face to face ministry to return at St Peter's, as well as the outcentres. **Masks are currently required indoors so please bring one along when you attend.** Due to relaxing of restrictions we are now back to our **2 regular services, 8am and 10:30am at St Peter's Leongatha.** 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 **15 visitors** a day, this allows most homegroups to resume meeting normally.

## **Kids and Youth Band**

Expressions of interest are encouraged as planning has started on a St Peter's Kids and Youth band! Hooray! 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](mailto:ministryleongatha@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **Readings for Next Week Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Nehemiah 2:10-20

Psalms 89:21-38

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 6:53-56

## **LET US PRAY**

Isaiah 56:7-8

..for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

<sup>8</sup>The Sovereign LORD declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel:

"I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

- Pray for those struggling with mental health issues at the moment exacerbated by isolation and the social effects of the pandemic
- Pray for those who feel a sense of hopelessness about the future
- Pray for each home group in the Parish, that each one will be renewed in Spirit and be places of encouragement
- Pray for Bishop Richard as he leads our Diocese, pray for wisdom, courage and resilience
- Pray for our leadership team at St Peter's, that the joy of the Lord would strengthen them each day

- Pray for the Wednesday community lunch as for those engaging with this ministry for the first time, pray that each person would find meaningful connection and nourishment
- Pray for kids church and Junior Jesus youth as they continue to encourage the younger people of our Parish



## GRAHAM GEMS

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Sometimes when you're listening to people telling a story they apparently go off on a tangent and their own flight of fancy. To them the material that they are sharing makes perfect sense but to those listening there is a wondering as to what is going on. Sometimes by the end of the story it all comes together but other times we are all still gloriously confused by the time we reached the conclusion! They were apparently just rambling! In

this morning's reading from Mark's gospel (6:14-29) the writer suddenly seems to go off on a tangent and to speak about an incident that had happened sometime earlier namely the beheading of John the Baptist by Herod. John the Baptist had been very unfairly executed and Mark goes into some detail as to how this has happened. But why is he telling the story now at this point when the ministry of Jesus has been exponentially growing and developing? In the immediate context that growth and development has taken place despite the rejection of those who Jesus knew best in his hometown. His friends and family were not interested in his ministry and despised what Jesus was doing. There is then this brief. When the ministry of Jesus seems to go forward unhindered and now once again, we face the cost of rejection which always goes with the forward momentum of the Kingdom of God. Whenever the Kingdom of God is built there is strong rejection from those who you would expect to be its supporters. There is also strong persecution from those who are threatened by all that Jesus brings. So it makes sense that powerful ministry is bracketed by times of rejection.

But there is far more going on here than that. This is all about the way that guilt multiplies within the human spirit when it is not faced head on. Herod was tortured by the sight of John the Baptist's head every time he laid his own head on the pillow. He probably had not slept well since that party when he allowed the execution of one who he knew was a faithful servant of

God. John the Baptist was treated with extreme violence for no good reason at all other than proclaiming the truth of God. Herod now had to face his own demons every night and they multiplied. His story began with only one person to contend against but suddenly there are now 13 people doing the sorts of things that John the Baptist did. How on earth was Herod going to maintain control? Things were definitely going pear shaped for him and there was absolutely nothing he could do about it. So it is with those who opposed the work of the Kingdom today. Their efforts come to nothing because God will raise up witnesses to himself who will share the good news of the Kingdom with others effectively. The voice of the Holy Spirit will not be silent.

On the other hand the question becomes 'what is it that keeps us awake at night?' I have heard many people tell deep stories of brokenness and guilt to do with the way that they lived their lives in the past. Often these stories begin by the person talking about how exhausted they are. Sometimes people refer to being haunted by nightmares or by situations from the past in their imagination. The guilt cannot be removed and will not go away save through the intervention of Jesus Christ himself who has often been resisted or opposed by the person in the past. It's often said that guilt is like mice or rats that are locked in a cupboard. We hope that they will go away but they simply multiply and drive the person to distraction. Skeletons in the cupboard may be dead but they are far from ineffective as they demonize a person's life now. Such guilt cannot easily be buried and any attempt to face it humanly simply makes the situation worse. The things that hold power in a person's life are the shameful secrets they are unwilling to share.

In the church every person is a sinner who has fallen short of the glory of God. Anybody who pretends to be better than anybody else is simply a bigger sinner than anybody else and deluded. Jesus told us that we were to sort out the log in our own eye rather than the splinter in our brothers or sisters. We forget this at our peril. Our role is to sit at the foot of the cross with one another and point together to grace. There is grace for our sins at the foot of the cross and that grace sets us free to focus on our Saviour. We are to be those who rejoice at the ministry and works of the Kingdom however they are carried out. It is when we get really excited about the Kingdom that we become insomniacs because of Jesus rather than because of our guilt.