



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 18th October 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

Give to Caesar the things that
are Caesar's, and to God the
things that are God's.

Matthew 22:21

Readings

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-33



Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, your Son has
opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts
and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same 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

As the youngest of four children, Christmas was a bit hit and miss. I shared the anticipation of other children and friends but my present was often a hand me down from those older. The one thing that you could hope for was that everything was so worn out by the time it got to me that something new had to be bought! So it was that the two middle children always felt they got a poor deal. I learned then not to hope for too much. Many people have been eagerly awaiting the Premier's announcements regarding the next stages in the easing of restrictions. I'm not hoping for too much which means that we are well placed to carry on business as usual although it's not usual!! During the coming week I hope to be distributing Holy Communion packs and the last two editions of the Gippsland Anglican which arrived in the post within days of each other. Reports and accounts for the AGM are being gathered and the Parish Council will be considering the budget for the 2020-21 year. It is my firm view that what is of Jesus will thrive until restrictions are fully eased. The rest will fall away and we should not try to hold onto it. What emerges will look different but it may well be healthier. As the roses begin to bloom after the harshest of pruning so I believe our church will bloom in ways that we could not have foreseen at the beginning of 2020. All is well because we are in Holy's Spirit's care who does not give us hand me downs but always something new, creative and full of life.

National Anglican Family Violence Project

The Anglican Church is committed to supporting safe and loving homes and safe churches. Intimate partner violence is defined by the World Health Organization as *behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.*

If you are connected to the Anglican Church, have experienced intimate partner violence and feel comfortable sharing your experience in a confidential online survey, please read the attached flier to this week's newsletter headed 'National Anglican Family & Intimate Partner Violence Study'.

By bravely being open about your experiences you can be a part of creating safer homes and Churches for others.

The Gippsland Anglican October

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_October_20FINAL.pdf

Annual Leave

Belinda will be on annual leave Monday 19th October- Wednesday 21st October inclusive.

Men's Ministry

The Tuesday online men's ministry began 'The Prayer Course' last Tuesday. Men who are interested in joining this supportive and encouraging group are invited to contact Graham Knott or Andrew Aldous. We would love the ministry to grow and be a blessing to many more. We have great plans and possibilities for further developments once we are able to meet face to face. Members of the group also support one another daily in prayer through a WhatsApp prayer group. Deep relationships and connections have been formed. For the fifteen men involved this ministry has become very important.

New Website!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Parish Website

www.leongathaanglican.org

We hope that in time this website will encourage more of the community to explore faith and engage in the mission and ministry of the Church.

Thank you to Doug Kelly for developing this important ministry.

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

Year of Discernment

The Diocese provides a year of discernment during which people can explore whether God is calling them to ordained or enhanced lay ministry. A group meets formally four times a year at different venues and with others from across Gippsland. There is also informal contact between sessions. Leongatha parish members are aiming to meet more regularly via Zoom. This is a genuine opportunity to discern what the purpose of Holy Spirit is for the next seasons of our lives. Contact Graham or Belinda if you would like further information. We view this as highest priority.

2020 Annual General Meeting Timeline

Wednesday 30 th September	Close books and prepare financial returns
Sunday 25 th October	Books and financial papers to parish office (Graham Knott) by 1pm for audit
Sunday 25 th October	All reports posted to PO Box 271 Leongatha or emailed to ministryleongatha@gmail.com by 1pm (for collation)
Sunday 25 th October	Nominations open 9am
Sunday 8 th November	AGM meeting booklet available
Sunday 15 th November	Nominations close 9pm
Sunday 22 nd November	Parish Annual General Meeting 4pm
Sunday 22 nd November	St Peter's Leongatha AGM (directly after Parish AGM)
Friday 4 th December	St Andrew's Tarwin Lower and St David's Meeniyan AGM (time to be advised)
Sunday 13 th December	St Andrew's Tarwin Lower AGM 11:30am (After 10:30am Service)

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 25th October

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Matthew 22:34-46

LET US PRAY

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

- Praise God for the rain that fills our dams, rivers and streams.
- Praise God that He is our Heavenly Father who sent His Son to die for us.
- Praise God for the Holy Spirit who is our comforter and helper.
- Thank God for technology that enables us to communicate with friends and family who are far away.
- Thank God for the technology that enables us to have church and various meetings that otherwise would not happen.
- Thank God for our Government and the freedoms that we enjoy.
- Pray for those who lead us in the different areas of our lives.
- Pray for teachers and students as they adjust to face to face learning.
- Pray for the areas where there are continued restrictions that are causing trauma, frustration and economic hardship.
- Pray for the countries of the world where many people are still dying from Coronavirus.
- Pray for those developing a vaccine.

Prayer Chain

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



GRAHAM'S GEMS

18th October 2020

'Ancient wisdom to "know your enemy" is good advice when dealing with a manipulator. It allows you to respond strategically. Most people react in ways that escalate abuse and/or play into the hands of the abuser to make you feel small, guilty, doubt yourself, retreat, and allow unacceptable behavior. Understanding what they're up to empowers you.'

So writes Darlene Lancer. As we have read Matthew during these last few weeks, we have observed religious groups and power brokers trying to manipulate Jesus. They are his declared enemies – he responds with truth and love. However, he knows them and can, therefore, respond strategically. In multiple encounters with Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees Jesus demonstrates his response to spiritual abuse. In Matthew 23 he moves from strategic response to wise teaching with a total and full denunciation of those who would spiritually abuse others at any time. It is a chapter sadly often ignored because it appears negative. However, it is a charter for the liberation of the church and good governance within it. In this week's Gospel reading (Matthew 22:15-33) Jesus encounters first the Pharisees and then the Sadducees. The latter incident concerns marriage at the resurrection. Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Their question is phrased in the cultural and socio-economic terms of that time. In the absence of welfare provision, widows had to be cared for especially when there was no son to provide such care. The custom was that the brother must marry the childless widow left by his sibling and produce an heir. So this widow is pictured as being passed from brother to brother until she dies herself. We can be grateful that there is much better compassionate care for the bereaved in our society and that women especially are not treated as objects simply to be passed on. However we should not judge the customs of many centuries ago through the alleged superior lens of our day. Those folks were trying to be as compassionate as they could be with the resources they had available.

Not so the Sadducees. They want to trap Jesus so they hit him with a question about marriage and about resurrection. Jesus replies, *'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.'* (22:29)

Jesus declares that relationships at the resurrection will be markedly different. Marriage will find its fulfilment as those who are described as blessed celebrate *'the wedding supper of the Lamb.'* (Revelation 19:10) All human relationships are intended to serve this end and to be striving towards this end when Jesus Christ formally celebrates his marriage to his Bride – the redeemed people of God, the Church, the Body of Christ. In other words, human marriage is to enable us to live, serve and share the joys of being part of the redeemed Bride of Christ. The legitimate goal for parenthood is only to contribute to the membership of the Bride of Christ. At the resurrection there will be no need for procreation for all will share fully in the perfect love and life of Christ. So what do relationships look like without sex or sexual differentiation at the resurrection? We don't know for we are not yet angels – but all relationships will be totally pure, totally loving, totally everything else which reflects Jesus. The Sadducees question will be irrelevant for all will be fulfilled in the revelation of Jesus. However the Sadducees had opportunity to grasp the deep desire that God had for people revealed in creation, Isaiah, Hosea, Song of Songs yet they chose to ignore these. They do not know the power of God relating to the possibilities and imagining of love. Jesus also charges them with not knowing the power of God and the Scriptures relating to resurrection. When God appeared to Moses in a bush burning yet unconsumed, God declared sovereign relationship to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who had been dead humanly for centuries. If there were no resurrection how could God be their God? In a few words Jesus dismisses their claim. He almost treats their whole *raison d'être* as foolish. In both cases the crowds are described as astonished (22:33) while the Sadducees and Pharisees look for further ways to trap Jesus. Jesus will always respond strategically because he knows what they are up to. The two things that I would like to learn for these challenging situations is to know the power of God and to so understand the Scriptures that I can apply them meaningfully at any moment. Such will enable me not simply to be reactive but proactive in all that comes my way.