



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

March 14th 2021 – Fourth 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

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. John 3.14–15

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Photo: St Peter's Junior Jesus Young Youth Group for age 10-14 years

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 Meeniyán

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

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Hymns

118 [108] We give immortal praise

600 O my Saviour

248 [425] When Christ was lifted

141 Praise to the holiest

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

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

28th March- Palm Sunday Walk of Witness

Churches of Leongatha are coming together again to celebrate the greatest event in human history. The crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are pivotal in the destiny of all people. These events declare God's love and willingness to enable us to enjoy God's presence for ever. This year we will all walk as one commencing at the Salvation Army, walking and praying and singing at different points through the Leongatha township. After which we will gather in the Anglican Church Hall for refreshments.

Join us in witness and in prayer. **Sunday 28th March 2021, starting our walk at 12.30pm (Salvation Army)** - please arrive a little early so we leave on time! You are encouraged to bring a banner(s) from your church.

1st April Maundy Thursday Progressive Meal

Easter Celebrations begin this year with a Progressive meal around the parish where we plan to visit three homes and share food in each. We will hear a short presentation of parts of the narrative from John in each home. To book a place please add your name to the list in church, ring or message Graham on 0490045581.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

6.00 Towards the Cross - Progressive Meal around Leongatha. To book a place text or phone 0490045581

Good Friday

9.00 Worship for Good Friday - Meeniyan

10.00 Worship for Good Friday - Tarwin Lower

10.30 Worship for Good Friday - Leongatha

5.00 All Age Worship followed by Fish and Chips

Easter Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion - Leongatha

10.30 Holy Communion - Leongatha

The Anglican Board of Mission

Every year the Anglican Board of Mission has a Lent, Good Friday and Easter gift appeal. The Lent appeal features Philippines asset-based community development projects; Saint Johns Theological Seminary, Zambia; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mission grants. The Good Friday appeal continues to support the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Easter appeal is for the work of the Melanesian Brotherhood on Thursday island. Gifts may be made through envelopes into the collection or digitally direct to the organization. You will find the different envelopes and further information on the tables in the narthex.

Safe Churches Workshops

There are numbers of people serving in the parish who need to attend the full Safe Church Workshop if one has not been attended before or a refresher workshop every three years. Both workshops are available in St Peter's Anglican Church 2 Bruce Street Leongatha, Victoria Date: Friday 16 April 2021 Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm for the refresher workshop. Online registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BOQZY> Registrations close Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 5pm unless sold out prior. For the full workshop: Saturday 17 April 2021; 9.30am to 4.00pm Online registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BORAA> Registrations close Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 5pm unless sold out prior Enquiries only: 03 5144 2044 or registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au. There are other workshops available during the year. Details of these are on the narthex noticeboard or available from Doug Kelly at safeministry@leongathaanglican.org

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 Damien King 0479 171764 Brigid Kennedy 0404 912 370

Readings for Next Week Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-14 John 12:20-33

LET US PRAY

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

- Praise God for his love and faithfulness.
- Praise God for his goodness and provision.
- Praise God for his grace and mercy.
- Praise God for the place in which we live.
- Give thanks for our freedoms, our democracy and way of life.
- Pray for our governments, local, state and federal. Pray for our Premier and his return to full health.
- Pray for the continuing vaccinations, that supplies will continue and that the vaccination roll out can be done with efficiency and expediency. Pray for those countries where cases of Covid are increasing again. Pray for countries like Papua New Guinea where the virus is taking hold and vaccinations are slow.
- Pray for countries where the people are fighting for their rights and freedoms. Hong Kong, Myanmar. Senegal. Indonesia.
- This week figures were revealed that stated one in three women are victims of sexual violence and abuse. In Mexico this week many women went on the streets to give voice to the violence they receive in their society. Pray that there will be a move amongst men across the world to see justice done and of women as being seen as having equal value. Pray for the women that are in our community who are abused and violated. Pray that husbands would value their wives remembering that the New Testament instructs them to love their wives as Christ loved the church.



GRAHAM GEMS

March 14th 2021

We read what is arguably the most well-known verse in the Bible this Sunday: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (*John 3:16*) this is the first verse that many Christians learn off by heart. It represents for many the summary of the Christian gospel. It is a verse that has been used by evangelists in their preaching for a very long time. I have found myself wondering what the verse has to teach us

about giving beyond that which is superficially obvious. It is also tempting to bring God's level of giving down to ours and try to understand God from our own understanding. In trying to understand God's giving we enter the level of the mysterious and profound. It is different.

God gave a crown rather than a cross. This giving is a great reversal of the way that many people give. They give out of their abundance and feel good about it. The human crown, in such circumstances, remains in place. Rather what our God does is share the crown with others while he wears a cross. It is possible for a human to lay down their life for someone else. We have seen incredible bravery and self-sacrifice in hostage and war situations. We understand the awful dilemma when it is the life of the mother or the life of the child but not both. We have read of mothers who gave their life in childbirth involuntarily. The giving of God is greater in extent and orientation. The effect of the cross is to wipe away the past such that chains are broken for the future. No human gift can do that no matter how hard we try. We cannot atone for our own sins of the past let alone all the others which have wounded the other person for which we are not responsible. God gives us a crown to wear while he wears a cross.

God's giving, therefore, has a future orientation. In expressing love for us now the purpose is that we have a future. God's giving helps us to develop a heart for eternity. In the bible this is described as not perishing. The thought of perishing is sudden and violent death. The result of God's giving is that anxiety of the future is broken because we are living for eternity. God's perfect presence pursues us such that our every breath and beyond is of that love. God's love, therefore, meets us in the present coming towards us from the future. Most human love comes from the past being expressed in the present.

The expression of God's giving has a context of dependence. It is such complete and full self-giving that there is nothing left. The spectacle of God

on a cross reminds us of the utter out-pouring of giving until there is nothing left. God is abandoned and forsaken. Such giving is costly and necessitates dependence on God for resurrection, life and provision. Time after time I have seen God provide when the resources have gone – when there is nothing else. This happens through human deprivation, yet God chose to empty himself and become nothing – to give it all away. How pathetic human giving is compared to this. Indeed, human giving often emphasizes the achievement and wealth of the donor. Our biggest gifts represent our continuing wealth.

The interesting thing is that God has always given wholly and fully. The very acts of creation in Genesis describe a God breathed and poured out in self-giving love as the dust is formed into his image and as humanity breathed the breath of life. Ensuing events portray vividly the reality within which we live outside of Christ. Perhaps the real challenge is that we have never learned or have forgotten how to give as God gives. Perhaps the question to ponder as Good Friday approaches is not what can I get? Rather perhaps the question is what can I give? *“God so loved the world that he gave...”*