



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

June 27th 2021 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3.22–23

Prayer of the Week

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to suffer death upon a cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; 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

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 Meeniyan

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 **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 after Pentecost

Nehemiah 1:10-2:10

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

Hymns

154 Great is your faithfulness

741 O Lord, hear our prayer

799 May the feet of God walk with you

155 When I in awesome wonder

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

St Peter’s Garden Working Bee

Has been postponed until after the school holidays. Please contact Brigid Kennedy for more info 0404 912 370

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.

Nehemiah Series

Over the coming months parishioners at St Peter's will be exploring a sermon series on the book of Nehemiah. This is to prepare us for fresh vision for the future, incorporating the parish council's discernment of our parish vision, the new Diocesan vision, as well as, future building developments.

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

The Gippsland Anglican – June Edition

[TGA June 21FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](#)

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 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Nehemiah 1:10-2:10 Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

LET US PRAY

“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

- Praise God that he is trustworthy.
- Praise Him for His constancy and faithfulness.
- Praise Him that He keeps His promise to never leave us alone.
- Pray for our Government, our Prime Minister, State Deputy Premier, and all who are in the Parliaments of our land.
- Pray for those who give advice during these days of Covid, pray for our health service and those who are face to face with COVID testing, administering vaccinations and those dealing with people in quarantine.
- Pray for our church leaders, our Bishop, Rector and Assistant Minister.
- Pray for the Afghanistan nationals who worked for the Australian personnel and are now in fear of their lives.
- Pray for refugees and a fairer system that shows mercy and respect of the individual.
- Pray for the Mulherins as they plan a special service in Burwood in July. Pray that they will soon have definite news regarding their future.



GRAHAM GEMS

27th June 2021

For the majority of the world's population, beyond the anxiety of catching the virus, the greatest impact of COVID has been the necessity to avoid touching other people. People have tried all manner of ways to try to maintain some form of physical contact, for example, by touching elbows. That response is now demonstrated to be no protection against the latest strains of covid which have been passed by people simply

brushing against each other in a crowd. Most people, however, who did the 'touch elbow thing' often laughed at the same time – a recognition that their attempt at human contact was meaningless and lacked more than it fulfilled. In churches the non-contact exchange of the Sign of the Peace is greeted with levity as if this is really counterfeit, lacking the gravitas of the power of touch.

Those who live alone have this kind of social isolation magnified. Even when relatives visit from another city or state there is this moment of awkwardness. Not having touched anyone for months, do we hug extended family as we used to do or do we keep our distance? Who are the vulnerable? The elderly who may succumb more readily to COVID? The single elderly who may sense very, very deeply the pain of physical isolation? What of the recently bereaved or those whose relationship failed just as COVID struck? Touch tells us whether we are safe, whether we are loved, whether the world and our place in it are in harmony. Steve Jones, a psychiatrist from Los Angeles describes touch as “the most powerful safety signal of togetherness.” Touch does much to keep us physically, emotionally, socially, mentally and spiritually healthy.

There is nothing that can replace the power of touch. My granddaughter, Esther, was born in England in March 2020 just as COVID lockdowns began here. I have watched and listened to her on Messenger, been kept informed of her development. She has looked at me and I have looked at her electronically. But one very crucial thing is missing. The power of touch. Because that touch has been missing in the formative months I fully expect that Esther will initially be quite scared and uncertain with what to do with me when I eventually get to visit. In many ways there can be no real relationship without the reality of touch.

We have, of course, found different ways to compensate for this loss of touch. Sales of pets and associated products exceed \$US100 billion for the first time in 2020. Many dogs and other animals were bought and adopted during 2020 in Victoria leading to hugely inflated prices for purchasing pets. Perhaps when lockdowns are a thing of the past we will have many pets who will be suffering touch deprivation as we are now.

There will be many effects of the pandemic which we have yet to discover. Among them will be the permanent loss of relationship. Esther will probably be around five when I see her for the first time. My relationship with her is bound to be different to the other four grandchildren.

The pandemic put on hold one of the fastest growing service industries across the globe which is cuddle therapy. People pay up to \$100 per hour to be hugged by another person in a safe environment. That such a service is in great demand is an indictment of our society many people live such isolated lives or where touch always has some sexual or other connotation rather than simply the desire to bless the other person.

Today's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is totally in favour of healing touch. The helpless and excluded woman touches Jesus and through that touch is healed. The dead twelve-year-old is touched by Jesus and restored to life. The Gospel narrative is the story of a single thing – that one touch of Jesus is enough, is more than enough, to heal and overcome anything that excludes any person from the love, beauty and wonder of being a child of the

kingdom. Jesus reaches across every barrier constructed by humanity and evil and touches all to bring resurrection, healing and new life. One touch from Jesus is more than enough.

Sermon Notes: