



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

April 25th 2021 – Fourth 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

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.' John 10.14

Prayer of the Week

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: help us when we hear his voice to know him who calls us each by name, and to follow where he leads; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **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 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 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Hymns

237 Hail Redeemer King divine

10 The Lord’s my shepherd [sung psalm]

444 Dear Shepherd of your people

521 Lord Christ, when at your first Eucharist

147 To God be the glory

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Today at 2pm Ecumenical Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

Scots Pioneer Church Mardan. Featuring a talk about the history of local service personnel by Lyn Skillern from the Historical Society. Supported by local singing acts. Contact Sam for more info- 0447205434

Today Tween Group

St Peter's Tween Group – Junior Jesus term 2 program begins today 25th April. For more information about the term 2 timetable text or call Brigid 0404912370 or Damien and Bec on 0479171764

Monday Night Alpha 27th April- 1st 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)

23rd 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>

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.

Readings for Next Week 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:26-32
1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

LET US PRAY

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
And to sing praises to your name, O Most High.
To declare your loving kindness in the morning,
And your faithfulness every night. Psalm 92:1-2

- Lord we bring to you our world and all those who are still severely affected by the Covid virus. We pray particularly for those who are in India. We continue to pray for vaccination programmes and for the release of vaccine.
- We bring before you all those who are bereaved through warfare, whose lives feel empty, whose hearts are broken and whose spirits despair. When loneliness, fear or uncertainty is the unwelcome companion, when waves of distress threaten to overwhelm, take their hands in the passage of darkness. Hold on to them when they find it hard to hold on to you. Grant comfort in sorrow and deliverance from bitterness.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.



GRAHAM GEMS April 25th 2021

“Her father was a prisoner of war in Burma. He died there in 1943.” Those few words were simply stated during a funeral visit earlier this week. In 1943 the event would have had huge impact shaping the lives of family, livelihood and community. The news would have been shattering for a person who loved and shared love was gone forever. His and the suffering of others in every conflict is unimaginable. Fifteen years ago I served in East Gippsland where I was encouraged to visit

those who lived hidden in the bush for whatever reason. Numbers of these were Vietnam veterans – men whose lives were traumatised and paralysed by the sheer atrocity of that war and also the way that our nation treated them on their return. These men lived their lives hidden away paralysed by fear. War is brutal, violent and always has cost which is far wider than the simple death toll if that were not shocking enough. My mother lived through WW2 in London during the blitz. I asked her when I was very young why that war was fought. Her answer was simple and has always stayed with me – “Because we had to.” There is a cost to peace in a world of tyranny, dictators and those who want to possess another’s nation and destroy their way of life.

What concerns me far more than war is the ways that people are preoccupied with violence during supposed peacetime. News only becomes news when it is about some action or other of violence or of human tragedy. To counter this many media programs now end with the ‘good news’ story as if this somehow wipes away the violence we have

consumed. Many children grow up on this daily diet of violence – innocent minds seared with images of death and destruction. Worse many children continue to play the most violent of video games featuring war, death and destruction. Violence becomes OK because we can always start the game and play again. Those killed come back to life at the touch of a button. We are agents of electronic resurrections daily. What price life if it can be swept away and renewed with a flick of a switch? Violence can only ever give birth to violence unless there is a stronger prevailing context.

We even use controlled aggression to teach kids not to be aggressive. What strange logic. When I was about eight the observation was that I need toughening up. So the decision was that I be taught boxing. The whole thing lasted about one minute. Knocked to the floor I never got up simply because I had no intention of getting back up to be knocked down again until I could knock them down. Aggression is aggression whether it is controlled or not. I knew that when I was eight!

Following WW2 the Berlin wall was built to keep two ideologies apart and to create a safe environment in supposed peacetime. In an instant this decision separated families, neighbours, friends and workers from their work. Many of us remember the jubilation when that wall fell on 9 November 1989. (Yes, it really was that long ago!) Generally receiving no less publicity and still remaining in place are the walls in and around Belfast separating Loyalist from Republican neighbourhoods. These walls have the craziest title: they are known as 'peace walls.' Building a wall is never about peace. It is only ever about containing hostility which continues to rise behind the barrier.

When Jesus discovered a wall he built a bridge. Ephesians 2:14-16 explains the way that Jesus built a bridge between Jews and others:

“For Christ Jesus himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.....His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

The bridge Jesus built was the cross – the great image of peace in a broken world. We are called to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to become bridgebuilders. In the Sermon on the mount Jesus called this orientation, blessed – ‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.’ Peacemakers are bridgebuilders and such is our high calling. Pray God that we, our children and grandchildren never have to fight another war because we have to. However we honour the original ANZACS and all in the defence forces who came after them by committing ourselves to avoiding violence in any form – neither by feeding our minds, emotions and actions with such things more than is necessary. Instead we commit ourselves to walking in the footsteps of Jesus – building bridges where there are walls.