



The ANGLICAN PARISH of *Leongatha*

March 21st 2021 – Fifth 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

'This is the covenant I will make with them,' says the Lord God: 'I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.' Jeremiah 31.33

Prayer of the Week

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: we pray that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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

1 | ST. PETER'S, LEONGATHA - ST. ANDREW'S, DUMBALK
ST. DAVID'S, MEENIYAN - ST. ANDREW'S, TARWIN LOWER



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.

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

Financial Stewardship

Leongatha Anglican Church

Electronic banking details **BSB Number** 083 735 **Account Number** 51 5883623.

Cheques may be posted to PO Box 271, Leongatha, Vic 3953. Payable to ‘Leongatha Anglican Church Parish Council Parish Account’.

Readings – Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

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

Hymns

351 Lift high the cross

342 When I survey

232 O the deep deep love of Jesus

482 [226] Father of peace

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Adrian Lane - We welcome Adrian Lane from Bush Church Aid as our preacher today. He will bring information about the work of BCA and please talk with him if you would like to know more.

Rosters April- May

Rosters for St Peter's Leongatha and St Andrew's Tarwin Lower have now been emailed. If you would like a hard copy, they are available in the Narthex.

March 25th - Lady Day at St Paul's Cathedral

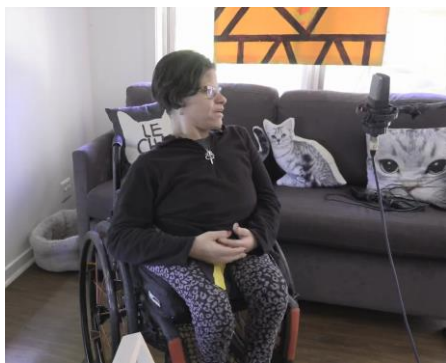
A warm invitation is extended to all to attend Lady Day celebrations at St. Paul's Cathedral, Sale. on Thursday March 25th at 11.00 am for a Eucharist and the Commissioning of Maryann Ashton as Diocesan President of Mothers Union. There will be a cup of coffee at 10.30. after the service B.Y.O. Lunch with our after-lunch speaker Right Reverend Dr. Richard Treloar. Information Jan 04750671 45. Maryann 0438644315

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 Amy)** - 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.



Songs & Stories- Episode 5 Laura Welsh

Songs & Stories is an outreach ministry of St Peter's. An opportunity to get to know Christians in the local community and hear about their faith and the songs that have touched their lives. To view use the link below, alternatively you will find the video on the St Peter's Leongatha Youtube channel.

<https://youtu.be/SDw2xll-o-8>

4th April- Baptisms on Easter Sunday

Let us join together in prayer and encouragement for Alicia Williamson, Olivia, Skaylah and Isobel Pedley and Jessica Baldwin and her daughter Lily as they prepare for the sacrament of Baptism on Easter Sunday.

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>

Safe Church 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 51 44 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

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.

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 912370

Readings for Next Week Sixth Sunday in Lent- Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-18
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15, 27

LET US PRAY

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28.

- Praise God for his kindness and amazing timing.
- Praise God for his Love, Mercy and Grace.
- Give thanks for the many benefits we have in this Country and State.
- Give thanks for the support our Government has given to Papua New Guinea.
- Pray for the next stage of vaccinations and for those who will have to administer it.
- Pray for those for whom life is a struggle, whether through illness, unemployment or life itself.
- Pray for those who, as a result of the challenges of the last year, have lost their businesses and livelihoods.
- Pray for those for whom events across the world have been thrown into chaos or trauma.

- Pray for governments and those who have assumed government. Pray that they will operate in fairness and justice and for the benefit of all the people.



GRAHAM GEMS

March 21st 2021

More years ago than I care to remember I ascended the steps to the pulpit with a very dry throat, a heart that was pounding so loudly that I thought every person nearby could hear it, expecting to get torn apart by all the mature Christians as I preached my first sermon as an ordained minister. And having climbed those endless steps – actually three or four (!) – putting my book on the stand – looking at me was a brass tablet with these words: “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

Those words stayed with me every time I prepared a sermon in that parish. After about three years I moved to share ministry in another place. The other minister there was afraid of heights and this pulpit was even higher and made of marble. I ascended the steps for the first time, put my book on the stand, and there looking at me was a brass tablet with the words, “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

Times change and far fewer churches use pulpits anymore. Many parishes have struggled to maintain ministries. Yet the interesting thing to me is that both of those churches mentioned above have grown and thrived during the last forty years. Cultures have changed – in one the ethnicity of the congregation has virtually changed 100%. Both have undergone large scale renovations and building alterations and extensions. In each the size of the staff team has increased exponentially. Through it all both churches have had one over-riding theme in all their preaching and mission – “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

These words were initially spoken by some Greeks who had come to worship in Jerusalem. Their intention, therefore, was to seek God discerning that there was something very special in Jesus of Nazareth. They weren't there by accident but because they were joining many other pilgrims from all over the known world to worship at the Passover. Yet they plainly felt something was missing in their worship or that Jesus had something to offer which they hadn't yet received. The testimony of the Gospels is that Jesus always rewards the honest seeker who longs for the good news of the kingdom. As Easter draws nearer it is good to question whether we are genuinely thirsting

for more of Jesus. There is always more for us to learn, experience and practice. The well of salvation and the good news has no limits – we can never fully receive or know the amazing love of God revealed in the grace of Jesus Christ. The two things that are limitless in this creation are the extent of human sin and spiritual darkness, and the overwhelming love and victory of Jesus Christ over those dark forces.

The Gospel incident records that they pressed through the crowds asking one of the disciples to set up a meeting with Jesus. They were not going to be excluded or diverted from their purpose. How easily we set out with good intentions and equally easily get diverted by many good things at the expense of the best. The best is quite clearly to see Jesus. These people would undoubtedly have heard of the raising of Lazarus from the dead a chapter earlier in John's Gospel. The voice of Jesus and the presence of Jesus plainly had authority. What would it be like to see and experience such life-giving authority personally? These people were hungry to know.

Jesus receives the request and immediately responds that the time has come for the cross – the once and for all salvation event. We don't know whether those visitors to Jerusalem had their request granted as they wished. What we can surmise is that they did see Jesus carrying and then being carried by a Cross. Jesus was there to be seen. The horrendous cost of sin was there to be seen. The hoped for salvation and relationship with God was there to be seen.

And so to us. In 2 Corinthians 4:5 the apostle Paul summed up his approach to the message he hoped his life would share, "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." May we give every breath to ensuring that others do not become focused on us but on Jesus. May our prayer be that others see Jesus and not us. May the life of our church be an answer to that one request, "we would see Jesus."