



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 6th September 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

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.'
Matthew 18:20

Readings

Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149
Romans 13:1-10	Matthew 18:10-20

Prayer of the Week

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through 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

Mainly Music Update

Happy Fathers' Day to all Mainly Music dads and grandads!

Mainly Music sessions are not being held at the moment, and will not be possible until restrictions on gatherings are relaxed. We were hoping to re-start in Term 4, but we do not yet know if this will happen. All team members are well, and missing their weekly contact with our delightful children and their mums, dads and carers. We hope you are taking advantage of the resources on the mainlymusic.org.au website. Another really good website to visit is playgroup.org.au where you can sign up to take part in an online playgroup.

Update from the Rector

Thank you for all your encouragement over the last weeks, it's been lovely to connect on the phone and see a lot of you face to face. Pending government announcements bring promise for future ministry and we will be in touch shortly with further updates.

Ordination

Is God tapping you or one of your friends on the shoulder? Many people in ordained ministry were totally surprised when they first sensed the call of God. In fact, we might think we're not gifted enough, clever enough or good enough. The call of God is always surprising, generally unexpected but always results in the most fulfilling and fruitful way to live. If you think that God may be preparing one of your friends to be ordained, please tell them. If the insistent voice of God is encouraging and challenging you in this way then please speak with Bishop Richard or Graham Knott (0490045581)

Care Packages

In the coming weeks we will be delivering special items to Parishioners including, Holy Communion, The Gippsland Anglican and shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (Samaritans Purse). We will be in contact by phone over the next week or so to say hello and take delivery requests. If you know someone who may not be on our Parish Roll but would appreciate a care package please let either Belinda or Graham know.

**Deliveries continue throughout the Parish, thanks for your patience and encouragement.

The Gippsland Anglican September Edition

The Gippsland Anglican is now available online

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_Sep_20FINAL.pdf

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

Readings for next week 13th September

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 114

Romans 14:1-14

Matthew 18:21-35

LET US PRAY

He (she) who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him will I trust." Ps 91: 1-2. NKJV

- Praise God for His goodness and that He is our refuge and our fortress.
- Praise God that He is trustworthy, that we can trust Him.
- Praise God that He forgives all our sin and heals all our diseases (Ps. 103)
- Thank God for our country, our government, the freedom that we have to worship, to pray and to speak of our faith.
- Thank God for our medical services, expertise and knowledge.
- Pray for all those who work in the medical and emergency services.
- Pray for those who are living on their own, particularly those for whom isolation exacerbates feelings of depression, panic or loneliness.
- Pray for those who have nowhere to turn who feel totally alone and lost.
- Pray for those known to us who are sick or who are struggling with long term illnesses.
- Pray for those who have lost jobs, their business, livelihood or home.
- Continue to pray for the men who are working through the Alpha program. Continue to pray for the technology involved in each meeting. Pray for the freedom to share and bravery to be honest and open. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move upon these men to fill them and enable them to take hold of the calling that God has put on their lives.

Prayer Chain

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



GRAHAM'S GEMS 6th September 2020

'It is vital to recognize that Christian sexual ethics is not addressed to the notional (and fictional) ideal family of the 1950s caricature.' I'm currently reading Ash' book on Marriage (IVP) and am finding it interesting and stimulating as the words above demonstrate. His introductory analysis is that Christian ethics of the family develop from Law in the Old Testament or failure in the New. The challenge is to build grace as the foundation for all human relationships and family life. That

necessitates that we probe deeply into the origins of what the human family actually is. Contemporary assertions are that every family is unique and that we are free to choose and shape what that family is like. The family thus becomes privatized – where the belief is that “it is my family which has nothing to do with your family or even the wider society.” The origins of human relationships are in the intentions and purposes of a Creator God who creates order where there is no order. There is huge difference between the ways that Christians understand creation from most other systems. Christianity asserts that the cosmos was created from nothing.....most other systems speak of a God who creates order from chaos. This matters because Genesis reveals a God who creates order in all that is created. God is not sorting out a mess at the beginning but revealing true purpose.

The New Testament provides a number of injunctions to fathers with which everybody reading this would agree. For example, 'Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4) or 'Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?' (Hebrews 12:7) We can readily see that these and other references don't build a complete picture of fatherhood as God intended because the New Testament addresses things that have gone wrong and is trying to correct them. The question becomes: how do we develop the best model of parenthood?

The simple, but not simplistic answer, is to try to understand the heart and actions of God without assuming caricatures either of God or us. It is not always easy to reconcile the apparent actions of God when trying to identify what a good parent looks like. In Matthew 6 Jesus is very clear that we must not worry because worry is counter-productive. Yet which parent among us can say that they have not worried over their children? At times it seems as if it is the only thing left for us. This morning's gospel pictures a God who leaves the 99 sheep to look for the one that has wandered off. The shepherd was

concerned enough to endanger the rest for the sake of the one. We understand this as parents. We search endlessly for the child we sense we have lost often apparently neglecting the dutiful. That brings us to the Parable of the Prodigal Sons in Luke 15 – two sons, one apparently well-disciplined and dutiful and one who wastes the lot by living totally selfishly. His father doesn't leave home physically to look for him but the implication is that the father is emotionally absent as demonstrated in the subsequent conversation between the father and the older son. We're not told whether the father was worried about the younger son but we are told that his father scanned the horizon looking for him until he saw him. What are parents to do with emotionally, morally, socially and physically lost and estranged children?

It is hard to be the best parent. It is hard when God has revealed truth to us which our children refuse to accept or deliberately ignore. It is hard because there are no easy answers. It is hard because we often discover the truth and the best way not during the good times but through apparent failure and when things have gone wrong. My response is not to focus on the parenting but on developing the character of Christ. As I develop the character of Christ I will inevitably become a better parent. Further we give ourselves to discerning the voice and direction of the Holy Spirit at all times. There are times as in the narrative of the Prodigals when it is appropriate to stay at home, pray and wait. There are times when it is appropriate to be the shepherd and leave everything else to search. God will tell us the difference. There is no easy program for parenting. What we have in the Bible is the revelation of the heights of relationship in the love of Trinity –Father, Son and Spirit. Immersing myself in such love teaches me how to develop great human relationships including parenting.

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.