



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

April 18th 2021 – Third 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

Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3.19–20

Prayer of the Week

Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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

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 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-20

Psalm 4

1 John 2:15-17; 3:1-6

Luke 24:36B-48

Hymns

386 By your kingly power

390 Alleluia

450 [440] Spread O spread almighty word

380 Yours be the glory

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

22nd April Woman’s Group Tarwin Lower

Come join in a discussion group based on the book “Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda” by Dr L. Parrott. Starting Thursday 22nd April at 10:30 am in the tearoom at the Tarwin Lower Church. Discussion topics include; choices, overcoming setbacks, boundaries, regret and living in the present. Find out more by contacting Paula on 0405 210 875

25th April 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

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 Ministry

Doug Kelly is the administrator of Safe Ministry Online for the parish. He can provide necessary forms or direct you to the appropriate place online to get the necessary forms. Doug is available in the Parish Office on a Thursday morning when he can meet with people face to face. Please ensure that all completed forms are initially dealt with through our Parish Office. Doug will forward them to the relevant person in the Diocese. If you have any questions see Doug or Graham Knott. Every person involved in a serving role in St Peters needs to have five different clearances. On 18 April Val Jones from the Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority will be with us in church. She is happy to assist with the completion of forms and particularly is able to authenticate the identity checks necessary for a police check. More details next week. There is a large body of work for us to complete as a parish in this area and we need to attend to this with some urgency. Please cooperate with Doug when he gets in touch with you. **Graham Knott**

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 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

LET US PRAY

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. Psalm 46:1-2a.

- Praise God that he is indeed our refuge and our strength, that we can turn to him whatever our need.
- Praise him for his faithfulness.
- Praise him for his love.
- Pray for our World, for those who rule and govern that they would do so with justice and mercy.
- Pray for countries caught up in violence and politic unrest or uncertainty. Pray for Myanmar, Ukraine.
- Pray for countries where Covid has devastated the health system. Pray for those countries where the virus is taking further hold. Pray for India, Brazil.
- Pray for the delivery of vaccinations across the World, here in Australia, and those countries who depend on the West to pay and deliver.
- Pray for those who are unemployed and for those who struggle to cope each day, whether through economics, health, mental health or relationships.
- Pray for those who serve us in St. Peter's. Those who ensure that the building is ready for our use, those who clean, turn on lights and heaters, arrange flowers, set communion, prepare children's ministry, prepare and print newsletters, music and sit at the sound desk and camera.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones. We pray at this time for Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family.



GRAHAM GEMS

April 18th 2021

Do you like surprises? Surprises are good or bad and our responses probably go right back to when we were very young. If many of our childhood surprises were bad or disappointing we may develop a habitual pattern of disliking them. Many people value routine and surprises always disrupt routine. We may develop a framework of expectation where the next surprise is always bad. However all of us need the capacity to thrive in a rapidly changing environment over which we

have little control.

After the stormy events of Good Friday, and having lost Jesus their teacher, the disciples hid. As the gospel reading tells us, when Jesus appeared to them, they were startled and terrified, believing that they were seeing a ghost. They couldn't receive Jesus' first words, "peace be with you". This standard greeting assumed greater significance when spoken by Jesus. Jesus knew that after the resurrection the disciples would face an increasing number of events which would be surprising for them. His very last words before death were words of peace. He encouraged his disciples in John 14, saying, "peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". The very last teaching words of the most effective communicator about God that the world had ever seen were these in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". Jesus knew that we would need a deep peace to cope with the surprises that were coming our way: the circumstances over which we have no control. The disciples were unable to assimilate this teaching because their framework for surprise was 'trouble.' Peace rather than trouble is our desired framework. Peace emerges from a right relationship with others. There are those who can navigate difference and conflict without losing their quietness of spirit. Those who hold peace within become peacemakers in their circle of relationships.

There is peace experienced from a right relationship with God. Henri Nouwen said that one day he woke up with the realisation that he was living in a very dark place, and that the term, 'burnout', was a convenient psychological term for spiritual death. He said, 'trying to deal with burning issues without being rooted in a deep personal relationship with God, easily leads to divisiveness because, before we know it, our sense of self is caught up in our opinion about a given subject. But when we are securely rooted in personal

intimacy with the source of life, it will be possible to remain flexible without being relativistic, convinced without being rigid, willing to confront without being offensive, gentle and forgiving without being soft, and true witnesses without being controlling". Being ready for surprises emerges from intimacy with God.

Peace emerges from developing right relationship with ourselves - developing peace of mind to deal all surprises. It is, what Steven Covey who wrote *'The seven habits of highly effective people'*; termed a transition person. It means taking responsibility. Cody writes, 'if our parents were abusive to us, when we were children, that does not mean that we have to abuse our children. There is plenty of evidence that we live out these traits, but we don't have to. We can change, and in doing so we can do it in a way that will build relationships in the process.

When our frameworks become healthy we recognise that many surprises are God's way of getting our attention.

In the gospel reading Jesus appears. God is definitely getting their attention! Initially in Luke 24:37 they are described as startled and frightened but by verse 41 as still not believing it because of joy and amazement. A helter skelter of surprises. He even asked for fish! We are unaware of the disciples ensuing response but Jesus said in verse 44, " this is what I told you while I was with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms". He had told them what would happen. They should have been prepared but they weren't. That is true for many who call themselves Christians. Jesus prepared us for realities about life and death. Many things we call surprising should not be so.

You would have thought that the disciples had developed the capacity for handling surprises well after three years with Jesus. Jesus surprised them by feeding crowds from a few loaves and fishes, walking on water, stilling storms, raising the dead. Life with Jesus is surprising! He had told them that in this world they would face trouble - the common lot of every person - but they could take heart because he had overcome the world. And he had demonstrated that authority in many surprising ways.

Surprises-good and bad will come our way. Whether our response is healthy is up to us. Those unprepared for surprises will find life only a series of small and large deaths. They are existing in a living death. Those prepared will find that death and resurrection often walk hand in hand in life and that in the surprises there is a voice of the risen Jesus ready to speak peace.