



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

April 4th 2021 – Easter Sunday

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

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia! 1 Corinthians 5.7–8

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you have conquered death through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant us by your grace to set our mind on things above, so that by your continual help our whole life may be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting glory. **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 – Eater Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9

Hymn to the Risen Christ

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

Hymns

360 Lights reddening dawn

362 Jesus Christ is risen today

382 Now the green blade rises

388 Easter glory fills the sky, Alleluia

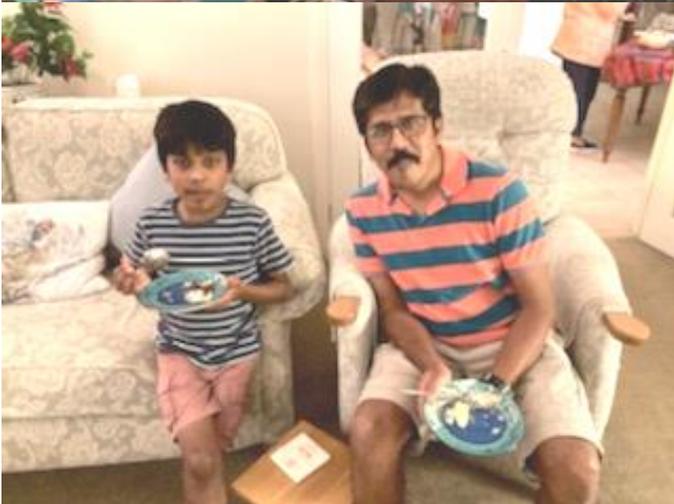
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

4th April- Baptisms Today- 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.

Maundy Thursday Progressive Dinner Happy Snaps

Thank you to Lucy for sharing with us the Easter story through Storytelling and for all who helped prepare delicious food. A fantastic evening of getting to know one another and celebrating shared life as brothers and sisters in Christ.





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>

7th April 2021- GEMS Meeting

The inter-church men's Christian fellowship group GEMS (God's Ecumenical Men Servants) will meet at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Leongatha on **Wednesday 7th April at 7.30 pm**. Dr. Michael Bourke will speak of his experiences as a General Practitioner in Gippsland.

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.

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 5144 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

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 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-37

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

LET US PRAY

He is risen, he is risen: tell it with a joyful voice;

He has burst his three days' prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice.

Death is conquered, man is free, Christ has won the victory.

Words from an old hymn by Mrs Alexander.

- Praise God for all that He has done in Jesus.
- Give thanks for our freedom.
- Give thanks for all the benefits we have in Him and in our lives.
- Pray for those who do not know Jesus or who have turned away.

- Pray for all those who are isolated this Easter, those who are unable to gather and worship together today.
- Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Pray for the World. Ask the Lord for his mercy upon those countries suffering from political unrest, natural disaster or repressive governments.



GRAHAM GEMS

April 4th 2021

The other day I was thinking about long haul flying. When I could take it for granted, I wasn't too concerned about it at all. I enjoyed it. Part of the allure was being able to see the lights of foreign and exotic places from the air before landing. Sights of cities that never slept. This isn't the same as the short bus trips to Adelaide, Sydney or Hobart where you're landing so soon after take-off. It's also not the same as the longer trips to Darwin or Perth. Something happens within me

when the trip is to another country – even New Zealand would probably do! So when COVID came long haul flying was a casualty for most of us. We didn't even think about it much until it was gone. The list of things removed during the past twelve months is very lengthy – going to the city, the cricket or footy at the MCG, visiting relatives and friends, going shopping whenever and wherever we chose. There are many things that we take for granted and only miss them when they are taken away.

Regardless of COVID we are people who take a lot of things for granted until they are taken away in our own experience. Youth and good physical health (we thought we would stay young forever!), medical care, young children in the family, the ability to think clearly and plan for our future, good leadership in different areas of life, a good income..... the list is endless. There are other things which can imperceptibly disappear or be shattered in an instant. These include childhood innocence, freedom from anxiety, knowing that our parents provide all we need (and in contemporary society what we want), that life will continue as it always has.

The familiar message of Easter can become so part of our annual cycle that it is simply there. I can remember many details of my first long haul flight from the UK to Australia. I can tell you exactly how I felt although it was many years ago. I cannot do the same with Easter. The risen Jesus has been part of

my daily experience for so long that it is hard to remember what life was like before. There have been many wilderness periods along the way – ‘seasons of dark nights of the soul’ – when the presence and reality of the risen Jesus appears to have gone. Faith for a season has been a matter of clinging on and persevering.

I find the best approach to Easter is imaginative wondering. Every year I try to imagine what it was like for the various people involved in the narrative.

Many of them would have come to the point where they took the presence of Jesus for granted until he was gone. The disciples, the loyal bunch of women, Jesus’ family, the enthusiastic crowd on the receiving end of miracles, healing, divine provision – all these and more would have been devastated as they experienced the life blood of Jesus pouring from his being. It is hard to imagine such devastation. Christ dies – imaginative wondering struggles to grasp the enormity of such loss but most of us can get somewhere near it for we have experienced too much pain ourselves.

Much harder to imaginatively wonder about is the sheer, overwhelming reality of Easter morning and Day when Jesus is seen, touched, heard and experienced alive. Most of us have no framework at all for such transformative joy. How can we grasp anything like this? To what can we compare it? A person waking from coma after an extended period? Miners rescued from underground after many days? How do we describe let alone contain such joy after extreme devastation?

There was another bunch of people who had taken the finality of their absolute power for granted until Easter Sunday morning. Abusive religious and political authorities who believed they could act as they liked and had the power of life and death. And now their whole framework and stronghold had fallen apart as reports came in that Jesus, though thoroughly dead is now thoroughly alive. How can we grasp anything like this? To what can we compare it? In some ways it is similar to watching abusive regimes fall, the Berlin wall crumbling, the context of family violence made known, the stronghold of darkness shattered. Most of us cannot imagine the sheer consternation when Jesus was reported alive.

From imaginative wondering our journey concludes with joyful experience. In 2021 my imagining has been around Lazarus and what was said between him and Jesus when both met beyond the grave. May your imaginings lead you to a joy filled Easter and a transformed future.