



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

February 21st 2021 – First 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

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Mark 1.15

Prayer of the Week

O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey your godly will in righteousness and true holiness; to your honour and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. 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

Genesis 9.8-17

1 Peter 3.18-22

Psalm 25.1-10

Mark 1.9-15

Hymns

591 Forty days and forty nights

252 [264] When he was baptized in Jordan

580 Lead us, heavenly Father lead us

568 [35] O for a heart to praise my God

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

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. **Masks are currently required during indoor public worship.**

Bible Society- Thank You Fellowship Gathering

An opportunity to hear about the work of the Bible Society- Light refreshments provided. Tuesday 9th March 1:45pm for a 2pm start. Leongatha Uniting Church, 16 Peart St, Leongatha. RSVP Rhiannon on 0417 467 076 or email thankyou@biblesociety.org.au

World Day of Prayer 2021- Vanuatu

Friday 5th March at 10:30am and 7:30am at the Uniting Church Peart St Leongatha. Followed by light refreshments.

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.

Homey Roast Dinner Night- Welcome Dinner

Our next Welcome Dinners will be held the 20th March. If you know of anyone who is new to the Parish or community and would like to attend please contact Belinda 0438 622721

Tween Bible Study and Group

The tween young youth group started off with a bang! Icecream candy bar pizza and popcorn, games and a movie. Thanks to all the team for providing such a fun night for young people. This group will continue on 28th February with a bible study running parallel to the 10:30am service at St Peter's. For more information or to receive a time table of events please contact Brigid Kennedy 0404 912 370

Tea & Coffee Roster 10:30am

Volunteers are needed to help this important ministry, if you are able to help please contact Pam Bishop on 0448 140 814

Mother's Union

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships. Our members are not all mothers, nor all women - they are single, married, parents, grandparents, and young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. For all 4 million members what Mothers' Union provides is a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community.

St Peter's Mothers' Union will hold its first meeting for 2021 on Wednesday 24th February, at approximately 1.00 pm - after the Wednesday 11.00 am service and Community Lunch.

Everyone welcome - if you have questions about Mothers' Union, please contact Heather Scott 0438 292 325 or Maryann Ashton 0438 644 315

28th February 2pm - Local Talent Exhibition and BBQ Ecumenical Church Mardan

Entry to event by donation. Contact Sam Nicita for more information about entering as a performer. 5664 9306 samnicita@outlook.com

Readings for Next Week Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:24-32

Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

LET US PRAY

Blessing the Dust- For Ash Wednesday

All those days you felt like dust,
like dirt, as if all you had to do
was turn your face toward the wind
and be scattered to the four corners

or swept away by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
did you not know what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say
we are scorched.
This is the hour we are marked
by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing
that lives within the ancient ashes,
that makes its home inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.
And let us be marked not for shame.
Let us be marked not for false humility
or for thinking we are less
than we are

but for claiming what God can do
within the dust, within the dirt,
within the stuff of which the world
is made and the stars that blaze
in our bones and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge we bear.

Blessing the Dust—Jan Richardson

from [Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons](#)



GRAHAM GEMS **February 21st 2021**

'I know what I want, and I want it now,' were some of the words of a song a few years back. 'Come here now' are the words of a frustrated parent to a wayward child. 'Sort this out now,' says the manager who is having a bad hair day as equipment keeps breaking down. A microwave culture wants things done immediately. Amazon in the UK offers a next day delivery with those charges being refunded in some cases should a package arrive late. It is interesting that COVID

lockdowns during 2020 meant that Australians spent up to 71% more time on cooking – exploring recipes and different things to do with ingredients. 'Immediately' became less important when home defined physical boundaries.

One of the interesting features of Mark's Gospel is that the word 'immediately' appears around forty times – generally around the ministry of Jesus and responses people brought to him. Strangely, in the original language of the Bible, the word, 'straight', can also mean 'immediately'. We see this in v3 where the command is 'to make straight paths for him.' Yet those words were originally penned 700 years before Jesus walked that 'straight' road. Whatever the word, 'immediately', means there is more to it than meets the eye.

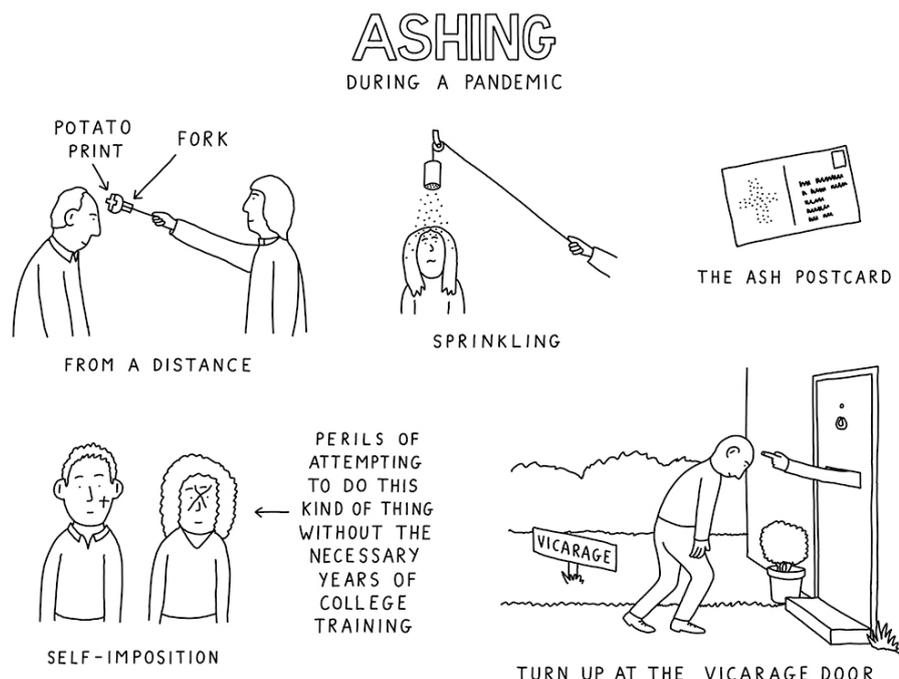
In Mark's Gospel the word always originates from something in the heart of God and becomes God-breathed into the human situation. It has authority and effective purpose about it. The divine imperative is always different to the human simply because God is about spreading the good news and developing the kingdom. When people use such language it is because of their desire to assert or demonstrate their power and actual or desired control. It is extremely easy to rush the Holy Spirit for what we think are good

reasons. Yet the Holy Spirit can be trusted to know the right moment. So, Jesus will deliver many people immediately from the influence of demons but equally, he will leave many in their demonised state. It follows, therefore, that his many hours in solitary prayer resulted in his knowing the right moment for the person concerned. Because Jesus waited many hours on the Lord his word had immediate effect. Or to put it another way – Jesus prepared a straight path for the Holy Spirit to be set free.

It follows that we need to direct the word, 'immediately', from quantity to quality. Spiritually it is about our directing our passion towards the Lord with a single-hearted focus. The results may appear to have come in a moment yet the Holy Spirit has been preparing the way for that moment over a lengthy period. This will change the focus of much of our praying. We will no longer seek answers having predetermined the best outcome. We will no longer take matters into our own hands because God has not moved at the pace we would like, no matter how difficult things appear. We will take time to immerse ourselves in the things of the Spirit through prayer such that the prophetic word of the Lord is birthed in us giving us the awareness of what will happen to release the 'immediately.' In Mark 1 there are moments which would have been interpreted prophetically when they first happened. What we now read as history were the revealing of the next stage of the kingdom especially for Jesus. Jesus was not surprised by what unfolded around him. He waited for events to happen having been prepared by the Holy Spirit. So John the Baptist proclaiming his message about Jesus released the way for Jesus to come for baptism. John the Baptist being put in prison released the way for Jesus to begin proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.

We can try to push ahead and get things sorted out and end up in a worse mess than we were initially.

It is the prophetic sense of 'this is that' which is revealed through all the biblical prophets. When through prayer we can discern 'this is that' we will see the Holy Spirit move immediately. Until we discern prophetically what discerns that moment we continue to wait patiently on the Lord.



SERMON NOTES: