



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

May 9th 2021 – Sixth 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

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' John 15.16

Prayer of the Week

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and 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

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 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-12

John 15:9-17

Hymns

203 Fairest Lord Jesus

602 O love that will not let me go

534 Love is his word

152 Joyful Joyful

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

9th May Mulherin's Visit

Today we welcome back Tim and Olivia Mulherin to speak to us about their plans for mission.

12th May- Mother's Union

Please join us for Mother Union Meeting on Wednesday at 1.00 pm. You are welcome to attend the 11.00 am Holy Communion and Community Lunch. Our speaker for the afternoon will be our Diocesan President, please bring to the meeting a small item which has a significant meaning to you-

14th May 6-830pm Junior Jesus Tween Group (10-14 years)

Another Friday games night crammed packed with fun, fellowship and Jesus. Dinner provided, bring a friend. Free event, St Peter's Leongatha, Crn McCartin and Bruce St Leongatha. RSVP Brigid 0404 912 370

14th-16th May- Synod

Members of staff and Parish representatives will be away in Sale over next weekend for Synod.

Prayer for those preparing for Confirmation

Please pray for those in preparation for Confirmation at Pentecost and also for those still discerning and praying about taking this next step in their faith journey.

23rd May 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>

Recording of 10:30 Sunday Service

Each Sunday our 10:30 service is recorded to upload onto the St Peter's Youtube Channel. Each week this is watched by approximately 30-60 people connected with the Parish. If there is something that is deeply personal you do not wish to be shared online, for example a personal testimony, please inform Doug Kelly or a member of staff on the day of recording so that the final clip can be edited before published online.

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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 1:21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

LET US PRAY

The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10b

- Praise God for his creative power, that he knows the times and seasons the beginning and the end. That nothing is too difficult for him and that He is trustworthy.
- Praise God for His faithfulness.
- Give thanks for the privileges and freedoms that we enjoy in Australia and particularly here in Gippsland. Give thanks and pray for our government.
- Pray for the Governments around the World. Pray for justice and fairness that peoples may live in safety.
- Pray for those places where Covid is out of control and showing no signs of coming under control. Pray for health workers who are already exhausted.
- Pray for the smooth running of the vaccination programme both here and overseas.
- Pray for those who are sick, those in constant pain, those who are confused, those suffering mental illness or trauma. Pray for those who live in fear every day, those who do not know how they are going to pay their bills or put food on the table each day.
- Pray for those preparing for confirmation and those doing Alpha.
- Pray for Synod as it meets next weekend.



GRAHAM GEMS

9th May 2021

The Macalister Irrigation District, drawing water predominantly from Glenmaggie, features numerous channels around the area often many kilometres from their source. The project began life in the second decade of the twentieth century and has been reliably providing water since. I was fascinated when a farmer told me one day that essentially the same method of irrigation had been in place for thousands of years going back to ancient Persia and the Egyptians. The gates essentially operated in the same ways. The major change had been during the last decade when the gates in the channel are operated by solar powered computer technology. We live at a time when constant innovation is the norm – when our latest gadget is outdated even as we buy it. I was speaking with a person in the parish this week who has just changed their mobile phone after fifteen years with the former one. Most of us couldn't even remember what phone we had fifteen years ago! They are changed so frequently contributing significantly to waste filling up landfill. Through it all – times of peace and war, of plenty and need, of stability and change - irrigation channels have been doing their work. They make no noise, draw no attention to themselves and are generally pretty much taken for granted. They are true to their nature and do what they do.

I thought of that as I read the opening words of Jesus in this week's Gospel, 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.' Jesus is saying that he has been the perfect irrigation channel – the Father's love has been poured into him and he has poured that love onto us with simplicity, purity and totally. We understand the mystery of the love of God through the agency of Jesus. However I am reminded of those irrigation channels simply doing their business for millennia. How long has the Father loved Jesus? How long has Jesus loved us? Since his involvement in the creation and foundation of the world. The love of Christ has always been there poured out upon all creation not simply during the span of the few years when Jesus was on earth. It has always been this love overshadowing everything else.

What changed during the presence of Jesus was our understanding of grace – an understanding that would not change our behaviour but the understanding of our hearts. God's people had always been told to keep the commands – there was nothing new in that. God's people had always been called to serve – there was nothing new in that. The new aspect which Jesus shared was that we could be the friends of Jesus and the Father.

However even this was not totally new. Abraham, the father of all who believe, believed and followed God in obedience. Later the Bible describes Abraham as being called God's friend. (James 2:23)

What an amazing description for any person. Jesus explains that we can be called his friend because we have the possibility of knowing everything that the Father has made known to Jesus. That relationship of complete unity is beyond our wildest dreaming. We grasp how the kingdom of God works and what are the features and life of that kingdom. This truth is so good that we lose sight of laying down our lives in sacrificial service for our fellow disciples. We are so preoccupied with the love of Jesus that everything else falls away. Simply letting the water of the life of the Father flow through us results in two things - fruitfulness and joy. We are part of the ever flowing channel of the love of the Father.