



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

August 1st 2021 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Isaiah 55.2

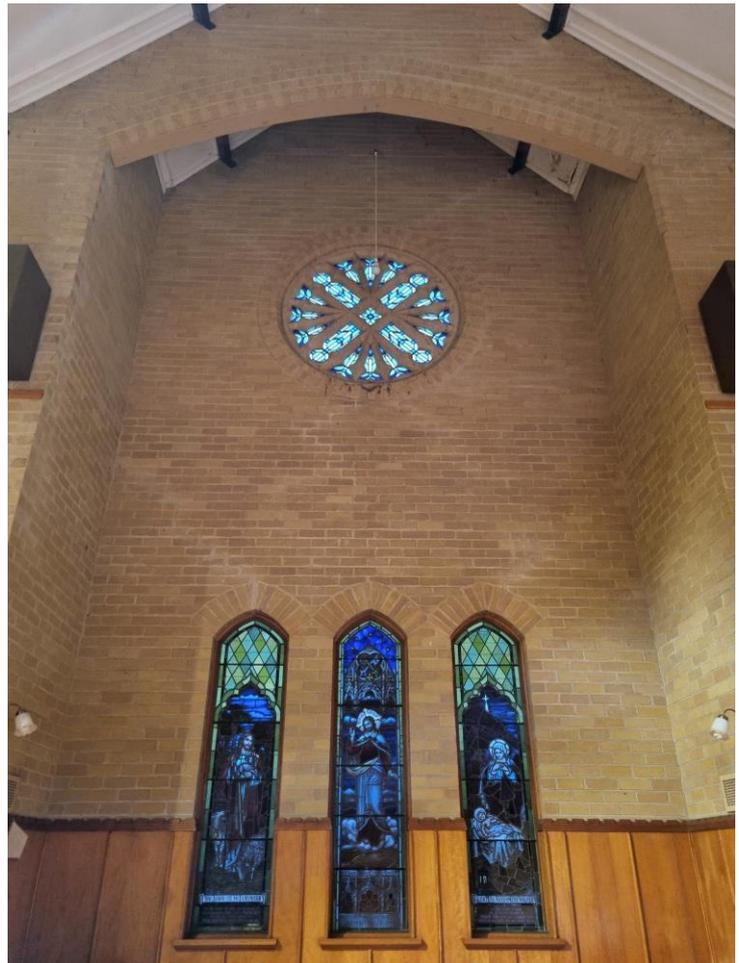
Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, whose beloved Son for our sake willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross: give us courage and patience to take up our cross daily and follow him; 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

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 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Nehemiah 4 Psalm 51-1:12

Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

The Revd Belinda Seabrook

The Bishop has announced his pleasure at his appointment of Belinda as Priest-in-Charge of Mirboo North for two days weekly initially with a view to that increasing in time. Delighted as we all are at this new opportunity which recognises the value of Belinda's ministry, we are also so pleased that she will continue her invaluable ministry in Leongatha for four days per week. An Induction Service will take place in Mirboo North once we are less constrained by COVID restrictions. Belinda will be initially commissioned and begin her ministry at St Mary's on August 8th. Rejoice with and pray for Belinda, Katherine and Eleanor. You can listen to the full text of the Bishop's announcement on today's YouTube Service.

+ Arthur's Requiem Eucharist Tuesday 3rd August 11am

All are welcome to participate remotely via this link, from home or workplace, or at **one of four 'host' churches across the Diocese** where the service will be projected onto the screen for communal viewing. Orders of service will be available at these centres for congregational responses and singing, and Holy Communion will be distributed from the Reserved Sacrament at the appropriate point in the Requiem Eucharist from the Cathedral.

Please contact the centre nearest to you for more information or to **register your attendance** (mindful of the density quotients in these churches), as follows:

- **St James Traralgon:**
- Glenda Edebohls (0422 573 374, or kedebohls@bigpond.com)
- **Christ Church Drouin:**
- Bruce Charles (0429 045 132, or bcharles@aguest-for-truth.net)
- **St Peter's Leongatha:**
- Graham Knott (0490 045 581, or rectorleongatha@gmail.com)
- **Holy Trinity Stratford:**
- David Perryman (0401 035 379, or davidp@gippsanglican.org.au)

The link to view the service

online is: <https://www.facebook.com/gippslandfuneralservices/>

Covid Update

Currently in Victoria restrictions have been lifted and we are able to meet for face-to-face worship up to 100 people with light covid safe refreshments afterwards. There are still some restrictions in place regarding community groups and public meetings. At this time no household visitors are allowed and this may affect some small groups. For more information, please contact a member of staff.

A Group for Women

Calling women of all ages and stages, let's get together to grow, learn and change. Fortnightly group exploring the book 'The Gift' by Edith Eger. Commencing Thursday 9th September at the Tarwin Lower Church tea room at 10:30am. For more information please contact Paula on 0405210875

Gems Meeting – 4th August 2021

The inter-church men's Christian fellowship group GEMS (God's Ecumenical Men Servants) will meet for a meal at the RSL Bistro, Leongatha on **Wednesday 4th August at 6.30 p.m.** Following the meal, Mr. Bob Newton will speak about his research and writings concerning local history.

Mother's Union

Mothers Union celebrates Mary Sumner Day. The Leongatha branch of Mothers Union is hosting the Diocesan celebration of Mary Sumners Day. You are warmly invited to join us for a service at 11.00 am on Monday 9th August. Due to COVID restrictions we would ask that you bring your own lunch to eat afterwards. A donation will be received and given to the Family Camp at the Abbey, Raymond Island. More information, please contact Maryann Ashton 0438644315 or Heather Scott 0438292325

Gippsland Anglican August Edition

The Gippsland Anglican is now available in hard copy from the Narthex. Please pick up one on your way out.

Safe Ministry

As a Parish we are committed to Safe ministry and working towards full compliance for all church workers. If you are a part of a team or on a church roster and are yet to complete safe ministry documents please be in touch with Doug Kelly- safeministry@leongathaanglican.org

Men's Group, Kid's Church Community Lunch and More

Some ministry groups have had to pause due to the current Covid restrictions. We will let you know as soon as restrictions lift.

Staff Availability

Graham will be on annual leave every Monday for the foreseeable future, this is in addition to Tuesday which is his usual day off. With the exception of emergencies Graham will be available to contact from Wednesday morning to Sunday afternoon each week.

Belinda will continue to have Tuesdays as her day off and can be contacted throughout the rest of the week.

Stay Informed- Are you on the mailing list?

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 0438 622721 or ministryleongatha@gmail.com

Readings for Next Week Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Nehemiah 5 Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 6:41-51

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 50+ 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.

LET US PRAY

- For I, the Lord your God will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.' Isaiah 41:13
- We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth. Give us the grace to live in harmony with one another and wisdom to be generous with the creation around us.
- We give thanks for our leaders in government. We pray for wisdom as they guide this country through the uncertainties brought about by Covid. Give them grace to lead with justice and mercy.
- We give thanks for our salvation. We ask that you would empower your church to proclaim your love for every human being. Grant refreshment and wisdom to our church leaders. Give them a fresh touch from yourself to renew vision and energy.
- We give thanks for the communities in which you have placed us. Help us to pray and care for one another. Help us to value one another in the way that Jesus valued each one he met.
- We pray for those who are struggling in physical or mental health, for those who find themselves without a job or a roof over their head.



GRAHAM GEMS

1st August 2021

Driving home from work the person thought, “That was yet another awful day in an awful week. I’m getting to the stage where I dread being at work, I dread being at home, I dread waking up every morning. Why is life so hard?” Shelving that thought the driver turned up the music and turned their attention to the bad drivers on the road who just have to drive at or below the speed limit holding everybody up, and why there

appear to be roadworks wherever they drive but the roads don’t get better. Tomorrow, next week, next month, next year the same inner dialogue continues. Nothing ever changes.

Nothing will change unless the person decides through their reflection to consider ways they might create different outcomes in their lives. Throughout the gospels the crowds consistently fail to reflect on what Jesus is pouring into them. They are like spiritual alcoholics – wanting and craving for more teaching but totally failing to reflect on their experience and so change their understanding and actions. Think about it. Jesus feeds a crowd of around ten thousand through the miraculous multiplication of a few small bread rolls and fish. The crowd had sufficient with plenty of leftovers. Would you not, in that context, have reflected on your understanding of Jesus, aware of your past history and traditions, and begin to consider how what is happening around you may reshape all of that past into a new future? Of course you would. A main lesson from the bible is that we probably wouldn’t particularly if we are part of a crowd. So on the very next day after the miracle of the feeding of the crowd, the same crowd ask Jesus, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” (John 6:30-31) What? You’ve got to be kidding me! Jesus had done it the very day before!! It’s why they ran after him around and across the lake. Surely the crowd cannot be serious! Yet the reality is that they are like you and me. They ate the manna the day before. In.... credible. *“The problem, Graham,”* the first woman solicitor in Gippsland used to say to me, *“is that most people are lazy thinkers.”*

That person had it right. We live in a world where all our entertainment is readily provided for us. It takes no effort to watch television, research other

peoples' findings on the media thus avoiding intense struggle ourselves. We are media junkies – bombarded with information most of which is not retained by us in an environment where all information is apparently granted equal worth. Learning to reflect on our experiences helps us to deal with the complexities of life. Most of us are too busy, too preoccupied, too stressed and too tired to do this work of reflection. Yet such experiential learning is invaluable and personal – it doesn't come through the sifting of somebody else's experiences. Those who continually reflect on what is happening to and around them become life long learners – always stimulated and growing, far from stuck in their ways. They can create new perspectives because they know that Jesus Christ is holding those perspectives before them.

Why couldn't the crowd around Jesus get it? Why did they miss their opportunity? Learning from their failures helps us to avoid the same mistake. Firstly, they weren't open to new possibilities – they were stuck in their arid rote learning of the dead word. As Jesus said in John 5 – 'these were people who studied the Scriptures thinking in them that they had life yet they refused to come to Jesus for life.' The Scriptures without the partnering experiential revelation of the Holy Spirit have little worth. It's not what the words mean but what the Holy Spirit says they mean that matters. The crowd was stuck in the past. Do we interpret our life wholly in terms of the past or are we reflecting so that we learn to see things as they are such that we can move forward. Observation is crucial for growth. The people missed who Jesus was because they misunderstood the times. What is the Spirit saying to you in your times now? Has the Spirit already answered but are you missing it? The crowd missed who Jesus was because of their individual and corporate bias. They were unable to evaluate the fruit of Christ's life objectively. As a result they neither were able to evaluate themselves objectively.

Despite the crowd Jesus continued to reveal himself to those who had eyes to hear and ears to see. "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Still they crowd missed it.....will we learn to reflect so that we grow?