



The ANGLICAN PARISH of  
*Leongatha*

June 6th 2021 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

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### 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

Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and my sister and my mother. Mark 3.34–35

### Prayer of the Week

O Lord, from whom alone all good things come: grant that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform them; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs please contact Rector of Leongatha- Graham Knott  
0490 045 581 [rectorleongatha@gmail.com](mailto:rectorleongatha@gmail.com)

Associate Priest- Belinda Seabrook  
0438 622 721 [ministryleongatha@gmail.com](mailto: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 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month

### **Service of Holy Communion -St Andrew’s Tarwin lower**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month 10:30am

There is **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 – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 8:4-20

Psalms 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-18; 5:1-5

Mark 3:20-35

### **Hymns**

592 Stand up, stand up for Jesus

365 Christ the Lord is risen again

459 In Christ there is no East or West

609 May the mind of Christ our Saviour

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE**

### **Covid Update**

Recent government announcements have allowed face to face ministry to return at St Peter’s with a maximum of 50 people per service (1 person per 4 square meters). **Masks are currently required indoors so please bring one along when you attend.** Currently there are over 50 regularly attending the 10:30am service, it is for this reason we have scheduled an additional service

at 12noon. We are encouraging those attending with children to attend the 10:30am service (to coincide with kid's church) and those attending without children to attend the 12noon service until government regulations change to allow a greater capacity. There is no need to prebook your attendance at a service, please just come as normal. If you have any questions, please be in touch with a staff member.

### **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](mailto:ministryleongatha@gmail.com)

### **The Gippsland Anglican – June Edition**

[TGA June 21FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](#)

### **Congratulations!**

What a joy to have Bishop Richard at St Peter's on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May just before lock down. Congratulations again to Stewart and Marianne, Doug, Rory, Tommy, Katherine, Eleanor, Johanna and Aaron on your confirmation day. The smiles in the photo say it all.



### **June Join In- Mother's Union**

Wednesday June 16th at: St Aidan's CNR Torres and Williams Street Newborough. 10.00 Morning Tea  
10.30am service followed by BYO lunch. 1pm: Guest Speaker Gerard Mansour – Commissioner for Senior Victorians. - Ambassador for Elder Abuse Prevention  
Cost: Gold coin donation. All are welcome to attend subject to Government covid guidelines.

Gippsland Commissioner for Senior Victorians Gerard Mansour is a passionate advocate for the rights and needs of older Victorians, with more than 25 years' experience working in the aged and wider community service sectors. He has contributed significantly to policy development and implementation of services assisting senior Victorians. Contact Maryann: 0438 644 315 or Jan: 0475 067 145 for further details

### **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.

### **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 Third Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 15:34- 16:13      Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17      Mark 4:26-34

### **LET US PRAY**

"I pray that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11

- Praise God for His faithfulness. Praise Him that he is King, Lord and Saviour.
- Rejoice that we are able to gather for worship, that we are able to move around with some freedom in our part of Victoria.
- Pray for those who find themselves still in lockdown and for our Christian brother and sisters not able to worship together today.
- Pray for Bishop Richard as he leads the Diocese.
- Pray for Graham and Belinda that the Lord would give them wisdom and strength.
- Pray for the Wardens and Parish Council as they continue to serve in their roll.
- Pray for those who lead various groups within the Parish, those who lead the children's ministry, the work with young teens and Mainly Music.
- Pray for those countries that are still severely affected by Covid, particularly India. Pray for the ongoing roll out of vaccines both here in Australia and across the world.
- Pray for those in Gippsland whose businesses are under threat again, because of last weeks lockdown.
- Pray, as our Bible bids us for Israel and Peace in Jerusalem. Pray for the new President Isaac Hertzog and for the ongoing political manoeuvring to establish a new Prime Minister and government



## GRAHAM GEMS

6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

On Good Friday, often in the afternoon, the period marking the death or immediately after the death of Jesus, Catholics say or sing the reproaches. The refrain pictures Jesus saying "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I hurt you? Answer me." There can be no valid response other than silence.....which mirrors the silence of Jesus himself when he was being tried on manufactured accusations.

The astonishing rejection of Jesus is a consistent feature of his ministry – sometimes more powerfully than others but always an undercurrent. This weeks Gospel reading (Mark 3:20 – 35) marks a moment when the kingdom of God is advancing forcibly and the forces of darkness seek numbers of agencies through which to disrupt Jesus from his mission and to kill him (3:6). It is a powerful visual reminder that whenever the kingdom pushes forward, there are those who will use all their power to resist that. I still find this astonishing. Jesus has healed helpless sick people through the authority of his word, he has broken the forces of evil, he has ministered God's forgiveness, demonstrated God's provision, taught truths that have blown their minds and yet they gather to destroy him. How can this be? Jesus brought change, disrupted the status quo, told them that religion did not matter but what did was relationship and connection with God. Some lacked discernment, others preferred the Devil's deceptions and yet others gave themselves to destroying the tall poppy in their midst regardless of how good he was. As always, such groups are on the losing side even when they appear to hold the upper hand.

The reality is that Jesus cannot get away from the crowds (3:7-12) because people are hungry for reality not controversy. That crowding continues in (3:20) such that Jesus and the disciples can't even eat their cheese sandwiches and popcorn! And what makes the message of Jesus effective is that he poured himself into a small group who would be unstoppable (3:13-18). Larry Norman recorded a song in the 1970s called *Why should the Devil have all the good music* with the lines, "Jesus told the truth, Jesus showed the way. There's one more thing I'd like to say. They nailed him to the cross, they laid him in the ground, But they shoulda known you can't keep a good man down." Right from the outset whatever the opposition they should have known yet they didn't and they still don't.

So, in this week's reading Jesus' family decided that he needed their help to rescue him from himself presumably because he wasn't caring for himself properly. They return after a few minutes seeking a private conversation with Jesus. Jesus, presumably aware that they wanted to take him under their control makes an astonishing statement which essentially says that the eternal connections and imperatives in the kingdom are much more important than the temporary, often dysfunctional, nature of the human family. Fulfilling the will of God thus becomes the most important thing for every person. There are few harder rejections for people to withstand than those from a person's nuclear family. This was not an easy moment for Jesus. Then Jesus is charged with using Satan's power to overcome Satan which Jesus soundly refutes. It has always been part of the unredeemed human capacity to call good evil and evil good. Jesus declares that Satan has no permanent place because he promotes division and where there is division whatever promotes that cannot stand. It is fundamentally broken.

The Jesus speaks of those who reject his ministry and that of the Holy Spirit. Those who decisively and destructively turn against the works of the Spirit will only reap eternal damnation. The ministry of Jesus is birthed in the person and agency of the Spirit. We understand Jesus only through receiving and walking under the authority of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is kingdom life.

Jesus suffered rejection unfairly and so will we. The closer and more effective our Christian walk – the greater the judgments and rejections of those who do the Devil's work. At the end of the day there is still no-one who can answer the questions of Jesus - "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I hurt you? Answer me." Before fruitful Christian living and ministry the Devil is always silenced.

Speaking of fruitfulness in the face of rejection I enjoy the story of Tim Martin. In 1979 Tim Martin began a chain of hotels and eateries in the UK called Wetherspoons. You'll find a Wetherspoons in cities and any major town in the UK. Not many people know that Tim Martin, when he was a child, had a teacher in New Zealand who said to him, "You will never amount to anything." The name of the teacher was Mr Wetherspoon who Martin subsequently named his billion pound business after. That's what to do with rejection....