



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

April 11th 2021 – Second 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

'Peace be with you,' says the Lord. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' John 20.21

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-37

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Hymns

361 The day of resurrection

360 Pt 2 vv6-8 That Eastertide with joy was bright

408 O breath of God

387 [120] Christ is alive! Christians sing

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Mother’s Union

Mothers Union will meet Wednesday 14th April at 1.00pm in church hall. You are invited to join with the 11.00am service and enjoy the Community Lunch. We will be looking at our years programme and planning for the year. All welcome.

22nd April Woman's Group Tarwin Lower

Come join in a discussion group based on the book "Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda" by Dr L. Parrott. Starting Thursday 22nd April at 10:30 am in the tearoom at the Tarwin Lower Church. Discussion topics include; choices, overcoming setbacks, boundaries, regret and living in the present. Find out more by contacting Paula on 0405 210 875

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>

Safe Ministry

For those who need to attend a Safe Ministry Training Workshop please see the notice elsewhere on this pew leaflet regarding those available in Leongatha next weekend. This training is also available online. Doug Kelly is the administrator of Safe Ministry Online for the parish. He can provide necessary forms or direct you to the appropriate place online to get the necessary forms. Doug is available in the Parish Office on a Thursday morning when he can meet with people face to face. Please ensure that all completed forms are initially dealt with through our Parish Office. Doug will forward them to the relevant person in the Diocese. If you have any questions see Doug or Graham Knott. Every person involved in a serving role in St Peters needs to have five different clearances. On 18 April Val Jones from the Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority will be with us in church. She is happy to assist with the completion of forms and particularly is able to authenticate the identity checks necessary for a police check. More details next week. There is a large body of work for us to complete as a parish in this area and we need to attend to this with some urgency. Please cooperate with Doug when he gets in touch with you. **Graham Knott**

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 51 44 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 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-20

Psalm 4

1 John 2:15-17; 3:1-6

Luke 24:36B-48

LET US PRAY

Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

- Praise for a Risen Saviour.
- Praise for our Salvation.
- Thank God for our freedom and the amazing number of choices that we have.
- Thank God for and pray for our Government, Federal, State and Local.
- Pray for our church leaders, for our Bishop, for Graham and Belinda.
- Pray for our missionaries serving overseas and at home.
- Pray for countries under political upheaval, for solutions to come in seemingly hopeless situations.
- Pray for countries coping under further increase of Covid and difficulties with acquiring vaccination.
- Pray for those who are out of work, for those who are sick or for whom life seems a struggle each day.



GRAHAM GEMS

April 11th 2021

Hot on the tails of the wonder of Resurrection reality Christians are invited to consider Thomas who refused to believe until he had a personal encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Traditionally known as Doubting Thomas, I prefer to think of him as Adventurous Thomas. When Jesus had previously expressed an intention to go to the home of his dead friend, Lazarus, Thomas is up for the journey. Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with

Jesus.'" (John 11:16) Lazarus lived near Jerusalem where Jesus and the disciples knew that arrest and execution were more than possibility. Perhaps Thomas was more than adventurous – perhaps he was courageous or needed to learn to think through the consequences before he spoke. However we choose to describe him, Thomas demonstrates a searching love and a loving search when Jesus is experienced as raised from the dead in his absence. Thomas will not be satisfied with the soundbites of others. He wants a deeper, intrusive encounter with this Jesus with whom he has already adventured much. "“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”" A few weeks ago a person showed me photos of the scars left by their operation. Let me say that I had no desire whatever to see them in the flesh let alone touch them! What Thomas asks for is enough to upset the most hardened stomach! Yet when Jesus subsequently meets with him, Thomas forgets his adventurous demand, and simply cries out, "My Lord and my God!" He eloquently speaks the most perceptive of Christian understandings. Jesus, then challenges Thomas to move deeper in his searching love and loving search. "Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."'" (John 20:29) Jesus is pointing Thomas to a different and deeper level of encounter. There will come a time for Thomas and for all people when Jesus cannot be encountered in the same way in a locked room, on a walk along a road, by a lake. The simple meaning of Jesus' words is that all subsequent Christians are blessed. However it would be wrong to conclude that Thomas is not. Jesus is challenging him to move on.

Jesus habitually challenges people to move forward and develop different and deeper awareness of him. I have reflected on the conversations that Jesus had with people in the Gospels. He nearly always has the last word.

That last word in a brief sentence contains a challenge or a commission for the future. There are very few examples where this isn't the case.

All of us have different ways in which our faith is nourished and developed. The risen Jesus is shown to be one who has considerable patience in meeting with people where they are at. It seems as if every encounter meets people where they are and propels them forward in their faith journey with him.

Jesus loves the disciples not by blessing them to stay where they are but by encouraging them into a deeper and fuller experience of life. Yet he begins with where they are. So with us. Jesus still makes himself accessible to the genuine searcher – so accessible at times that it becomes almost too easy for people to walk away and forget what has happened. But for those with minds to know, hearts to love, spirits to worship, the risen Jesus is there. Often when we least expect it.

For this there is only one response beyond that of Thomas declaring, 'My Lord and my God.'" George Herbert, the poet hundreds of years ago wrote these words –

"Thou that hast giv'n so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart."