



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 20th September 2020

PARISH VISION

Preparing the way for the love of Jesus Christ to reach all people.

A YEAR OF MISSION

On Vision Sunday the Rector designated 2020 to be a Year of Mission.

Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8-9

Readings

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1 Matthew 20:1-16



Prayer of the Week

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet 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

Assistant Curate and Response Coordinator- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

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'.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

A Message from the Rector

I wonder whether you have begun to think about what life after COVID will look like - it is being termed COVID-normal at the moment. There will undoubtedly be many changes globally, nationally, regionally, locally and personally. We have very little influence, other than prayer and advocacy, in some of these areas. I am one among many who have good reason to hope that international travel is permitted under safe conditions as soon as feasible. However, we have little real influence over that. Where we can take responsibility is how we choose to shape our own lives in the future. What new things have we discovered about ourselves and our loved ones during this time that we would like to keep? What have we recognised that is unhelpful and possibly time wasting in how we used to live? What good things would we like to contribute to our church and community in the future? Where do we think Holy Spirit is moving in our lives at the moment? These are the days to begin to ask questions like these. As restrictions are increasingly lifted the pace of life will pick up, possibly more pressurised in the short term than it was in March when Stage Three restrictions began. Now is the best time to be praying for guidance about the future. Where would God have you serve and shape in 2021?

Vocation Sunday

In recent years our Diocese has focused on vocations on the Sunday nearest to St Matthews's day. Jesus Christ calls all the baptised into ministry within the church and world bringing hope, comfort and peace as all are served. For some this means giving themselves wholly to their current working environment. For others it means serving as Lay Readers or ordained either in parish ministry, chaplaincy or the workplace. What matters is our individual response to the call of God. If you sense that God may be moving you forward in these areas Bishop Richard or Graham Knott (0490045581) would love to hear from you and explore the next stage of the journey with you.

Op Shop Volunteers

Shortly the St Peter's Op shop will be reopening with reduced hours. If you are able and would like to volunteer to help with this important ministry please contact Kaye 0409 686 233 or Coral 0409 165 227

Online Prayer Meeting

On Thursday 24th September at 7:30pm Jose's small group is hosting another online prayer meeting. If you would like to attend please email him on josenoel2008@gmail.com

Care Packages

Deliveries continue throughout the Parish, thanks for your patience and encouragement.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is a structured half hour service that includes Old and New testament Bible readings, a time for reflection and discussion of the Scriptures and a time to pray together. Morning Prayer is offered Monday to Friday at 9am via Zoom. It is easy to join and a special way to meet and worship together in the current lock down.

If you are interested please contact Belinda or Maryann Ashton – maryannashton423@gmail.com

HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

St Peter's Church is currently connecting via, home phone, mobile phone, email, website, Facebook, YouTube and Zoom. If you need some help with technology please be in touch, we would be happy to help you.

Readings for next week 27th September

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 11-16
Philippians 2 Matthew 21:23-32

The Gippsland Anglican September Edition

The Gippsland Anglican is now available online

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_Sep_20FINAL.pdf

LET US PRAY

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..... praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplications for the saints. Eph 6:11-18 NKJV

Praise God for his goodness and faithfulness to all of us.

Praise God that the numbers of Covid infections have been dropping.

Pray for those countries where numbers are increasing with great speed.

Praise God for our leaders in government and in the church and continue to pray for them.

Pray for those for whom life at this time is difficult.

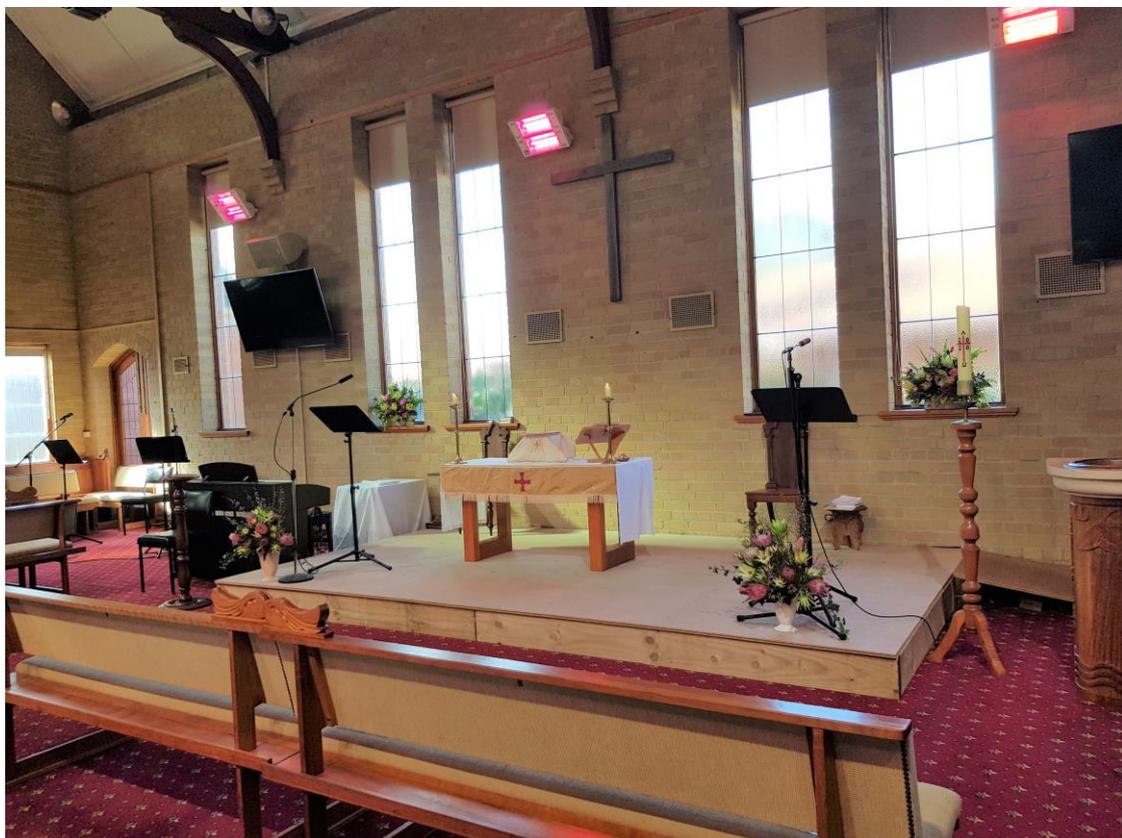
Pray for those who have lost relatives and have not been able to make their farewell.

Pray for those who are facing challenges.

On this Vocations Sunday, pray for those who believe that God has put a call on their life for a new ministry. Pray that the Lord would confirm it.

Prayer Chain

For prayer chain requests please contact Maryann Ashton on 0438 644 315





GRAHAM'S GEMS 20th September 2020

When you're innocently going about your daily work looking after the sheep and God talks to you out of a burning bush then you stop and take notice. No other bush is burning and actually though the bush is apparently on fire, it's not burning up. Even the most hardened cynic would stop and listen. When you're riding your horse along the road in the middle of the day and you are suddenly dazzled by a bright light such that you are thrown to the ground, you rightly begin to ponder what is happening. When you have just

finished a grueling night's work and a rabbi comes along urging you to follow him, you have something very tangible to base your decision upon. When you're sitting in your tent again working and gathering payment of extortionate rates and taxes, such that you are universally hated, and that same rabbi turns up and calls you away, you perhaps see a possible escape from the hated prison you have built for yourself. When you're worshipping in the Temple and suddenly have a vision and a sense of burning coals being placed on your lips, and a voice calling you to follow, you have a particular experience which it is hard to resist. All these extraordinary situations and more from the bible are the ways that God called particular people to particular vocations. They naturally stopped each person in their tracks and set them on a different, extraordinary journey because they had discovered the purpose of their life. Each life had impact and fruitfulness because it was lived pursuing the desire of God.

As extraordinary as these calls are, they can present enormous problems for those who are seeking to discover their vocation and life purpose today. Some people are blessed with moments where God speaks in such a way that the recipients know that Holy Spirit is changing their life course forever. Yet, even in Bible times such people are few and far between. It is fair to assume that the crowds who followed Jesus in the gospels did not have such profound experiences because they often appear confused as to the true identity of Jesus and the nature of their discipleship. They know that Jesus brings something special but that doesn't always translate into life changing behaviours.

In the Diocese of Gippsland we think about vocations this Sunday, encouraging every baptized believer to consider what ministries God is calling them to and for what Holy Spirit will equip them as a result. For some this will mean ordination or other public ministry in the church. For others it will

mean the myriad of tasks required for the Body of Christ to thrive as the Bride of Christ. For others it will mean carrying the good news of Jesus to the community such that the community is transformed. For all it will mean saying with certainty, 'this is the place and this is the life to which God has called me.' That life will be fruitful – it may not appear to be successful in worldly terms – but the person will know that there are lives transformed and changed eternally through them living out their vocation.

However working out that individual call is extremely difficult. The usual answers given are to pray, read the bible and seek advice from fellow Christians. All well and good save that we live in a generation where all these things are generally easily manipulated for our own ends. Many believe that God exists to serve them with love, peace and an undisturbed lifestyle. God just apparently happens to say what is most agreeable for us in the situation. After many years of trying to discern the reality of genuine calling in myself and others I have some criteria which are true more often than not. A true calling is unexpected, unattainable, uncomfortable and comes to the unworthy. The characteristic of every call – remarkable or otherwise- in the bible is that it is unexpected. Then we begin to think – 'how can that happen? My life circumstances are such that there is no way I can afford to study, or care for my family at the same time, or hold down all that is expected of me....I simply can't see that happening.' We see all the obstacles in the way. A worthwhile vocation is unattainable at the beginning. That's the difference between an interest, acts of serving and a vocation. Only Holy Spirit can make vocation happen in and for you. Then it is uncomfortable. Vocation takes every person beyond their comfort zone such that they must rely on Holy Spirit. We need to do things which humanly would crush us – speak about Jesus to or in front of others, challenge people whose behaviours are destructive, stay rather than run from challenging contexts. Christians who are wholly comfortable in their call are not advancing the kingdom of God. Finally there are always people way more worthy to carry out the calling. There are those who appear more holy, more knowledgeable, more naturally leaders. One of the great things about the Alpha Course is that former prisoners – salt of the earth men – are shown doing great ministry for Jesus. They know they are unworthy but they know more strongly that they are called. So what is God calling you to? Talk with Belinda or me and we'll help you find out! That's our calling.