

The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta

The Parish of Kilmore

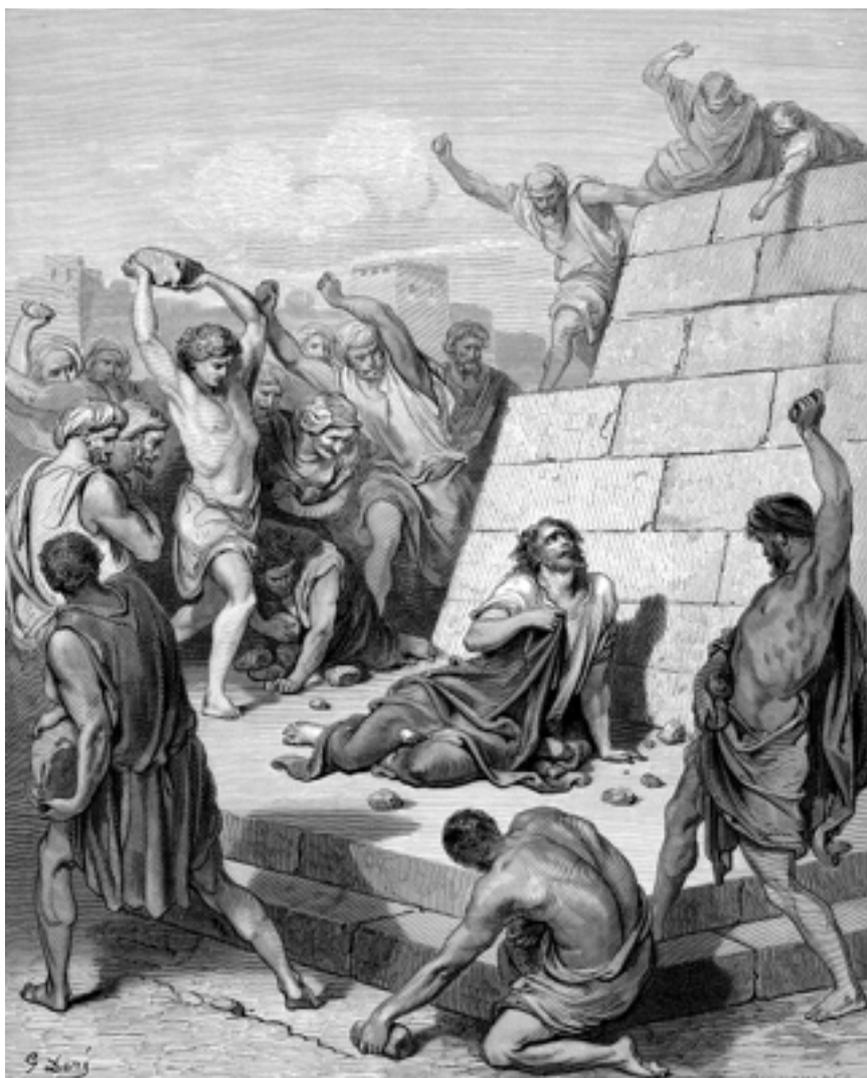
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

2nd August 2015

ST STEPHEN FEAST OF TITLE

HYMNS: 455, 562, 473, 433

A warm welcome to everyone, please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. *John 12.24*

THE COLLECT

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Grant that we also may pray for our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who hurt us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 24.17-22

A reading from the second book of Samuel

After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. They abandoned the temple of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and worshipped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. Although the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen. Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: "Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you." But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's temple. King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, 'May the Lord see this and call you to account.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 31. 1-8

Response: I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

Andrew Moore

Response
cf. v. 14 I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold./R

Guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth./R

I hate those who cling to worthless idols;
I put my trust in the Lord.
I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy,
for you have seen my affliction and known my soul in adversity.
You have not shut me up in the hand of the enemy;
you have set my feet in an open place./R

SECOND READING

Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) – Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia – who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are those who are persecuted for right- | teousness' sake,
for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Heavenly Father, we thank you for Stephen our Patron and for his example of love and faithfulness; we pray for all who are persecuted for their faith and for all who would persecute others and inflict terror; we pray for those who flee from violence and war; for refugees and asylum seekers across the world.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you redeemed your people with grace and goodness in the gift of your son; we pray for your Church, giving thanks for this congregation of St Stephen's; we praise you for all we experience here, the worship offered and the life of this community of faith; for the work and faithfulness of those who have given us this heritage, and for all who serve you here today; we pray for John our Bishop and our parish clergy; and pray blessings for George Andrew Cicone to be baptised today and for his parents and sponsors; take everything we are, everything we have been. and help us to recognise everything you would have us be, as we shape the future together.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks and praise that in your Son your love is seen to dwell; we pray for those on the fringes, the forgotten, the lost and those still seeking your Kingdom; we pray for the homeless, those without meaningful work; for those with whom we share our lives, and embrace us all with your love.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks and praise that in you, O Christ, we see the compassionate heart of God; we pray for all in need; the lonely and the friendless, those in grief or despair; those in sickness and pain, and all who will die this day and those who wait with them; we pray grace and peace for those on our hearts and minds and those who have requested prayer;

Requests for Prayer: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Tom Scrivens, Franca Caia, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Seth Gunter, Barbara Kaye, Alex Impols, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Margeurite Kisvardai, Penny;*

and we give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and praise for St Stephen, for all saints, and all your faithful people who have died; we pray for the recently departed for *Maria Wood*, and those years mind occurs at this time;

Year's mind: *2nd Ethel Winnell, Bernard Cheasley, 3rd Leslie Hungerford, Joyce Granville, Donald Dowson; 4th Maureen Hoban, William Mooney; 6th Fred Ambler, Roma Nicols; 7th Percival Ryan, Val Wilson, Ronald Brown, Vilma Payne; 9th Stanley Cooper. Erling Larsen, John Inness.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our ending, hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; grant us the grace to live the life of faith trusting in your goodness and love.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayer in the name of your Son our Lord who taught us to pray;
Our Father..... [pg. 124]

Reflections on Martyrdom of Stephen the Deacon (d. c35)

Justin Martyr, beheaded for the faith in A.D. 165 said, "The more we are persecuted, the more do others in ever increasing numbers embrace the faith and become worshippers of God through the name of Jesus" (Dialogue with Trypho 110). Contrast the impact of modern-day martyrs for other causes. Who knows or remembers what Che Guevara stood for? Luke's account in the Book of Acts of Stephen's death helps us understand the effect dying for the gospel has, and in so doing challenges us to accept its truth claims. Stephen's stoning climaxes his witness and introduces an important turning point in the witness of the Hellenistic Jewish Christians of Jerusalem. The intensity and scope of persecution and the extent of witness both take quantum leaps. His inquisitors are "torn up" not with repentant sorrow for their sins but with seething anger against the preacher of repentance. They grind their teeth with such a hissing sound, such a hateful screwing of the mouth, that Stephen knows they have but one aim: to do away with him. As we have seen before, when faced with the truth those in error will either accept the message or seek to silence the messenger, even permanently. One man full of the Holy Spirit faces a gallery of men full of hate. The Sanhedrin will have none of this "Jesus worship." To them it is a blasphemy that their loud yells must drown out and their hands must prevent from entering their ears. Like a herd of stampeding animals, yet intent on one

purpose, they rush together against Stephen, drag him out of the city and begin to stone him. Throwing him down from a high place, they gather and heave paving stones on top of him until death comes. These are the appropriate punishment, place and executioners for the sin of blasphemy as proscribed in the Law (Lev 24:14; Deut 17:7). In an extraneous note indicating the custodian of the witness-executioners' cloaks Luke introduces us to a young man named Saul. He will figure prominently in the advance of the church in the near and long term. When we reflect on how quickly a dignified high court was transformed into a lynch mob, we see how thin can be the veneer of civility and judicial order in society. This is especially true when those opposing God's truth see themselves as guardians of righteousness. There is nothing to stop their violence, as Stephen and many martyrs have learned. Whether falling under the weight of a paving stone hurled from above or deliberately kneeling in prayer, Stephen cries out with a loud voice, asking that Jesus forgive the sin of his executioners. How will this happen? If they will hear and receive the good news, then their sins will be forgiven. Is Stephen's prayer answered? Augustine said, "The Church owes Paul to the prayer of Stephen". In fact, Saul is the one adversary named in the incident and Luke is laying the groundwork for the great victory God will win through Saul's (later renamed as Paul) conversion and subsequent missionary service. Like his Lord, Stephen dies at peace with God, himself and the world--even his enemies. He fell asleep! By showing us how to die, he also shows us how to live and models the secret of the staying power of Christian witness even to death. If he can die for his Lord like that, confidently, forgiving his enemies, there must be something to this Jesus who he says reigns at God's right hand. Indeed, "the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church." And today the same dynamic is at work, whether in China or in Uganda or East Africa with their political turmoil, or in the previously predominant religious hostility of Latin America and Iraq. The fruit of witness under persecution, even martyrdom, is now being harvested. The gospel born by Spirit-filled Christians is life. Death cannot stop it!

Adapted from Acts 7 - IVP New Testament Commentaries



NOTICES

Strategic Planning Retreat Next Saturday 8th August 10am - 3pm - Parish Council's retreat day at the **John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library** to finalise the Parish Strategic Plan. Over the past few months Catherine Turnbull has been collecting data and now we review it all and develop our Strategic Plan. The day will be facilitated by Susan Benedyka who has been engaged to facilitate the Diocesan Strategic Plan and is well-respected in this field. This is an opportunity for every one to have input into how and what the Parish will do to meet the challenges of the next five to ten years. In a recent report it is expected that the population of Kilmore, Broadford and Seymour will increase by 100% by the year 2030 (*Population Trends in Victoria 2011-2030*). How we, the Church, meet this opportunity to grow and be relevant in the next decade are very real issues. If you would like to be part of the process please contact a Warden or let Fr Kim know. A soup lunch will be provided, if you are able to help with finger food much appreciated. We will start promptly at 10am - coffee and scones from 9.30.

Holy Baptism next Sunday 9am at Christ Church, we will be welcoming Xavier Birney, Oscar Taig and Sienna Taig.

Confirmation Classes continue on Wednesdays 4.45pm at the Rectory.

Bunnings BBQ - 15th August & 24th October - helpers are need to assist with running the BBQ; Lucy Staring is coordinating 15th August & Robyn Whitehouse 24th October BBQs. Please indicate what time slots you can assist - it is a fun day.

Parish Fete - tentative dates for this year's Fete are either Saturday 7th or 14th November. If you know of any reason why either of these dates aren't suitable, please contact Caroline. The first **Fete Meeting** is to be held at Caroline's house (20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore) on **Wednesday 19th August**.

Thank you - A big thank you from Assumption College to all in the parish who knitted squares, beanies and scarves for the ACK "Winter Appeal". These have been passed onto St Vincent de Paul to help those in need this winter. Beryl Kirby, Dot Elson and Caroline Burge represented the parish at the recent morning tea thanking the local community who had helped. The 2015 Appeal is now over but do continue knitting for the 2016 Appeal.

Offering Envelopes there has been a delay in getting new offering envelopes from the printers. We have been provided with blank envelopes to see us through until the new ones arrive. Envelopes in bundles of 6 are available in the narthex.

2015 Bishop's Winter Appeal for Anglicare Hume - donations sought to support the programs provided by Anglicare which includes, counselling, emergency food distribution, parish programs and special needs. Donations are tax deductible, provide details if receipt needed.



Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'; BSB 063-698; Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish Diary

1st Wed	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting	venue TBA
1st & 3rd Fri	7.00pm	Faith Enhancement Study	13 The Parade, Broadford
2nd Sun	12.30pm	Parish BBQ	See Notices for details
3rd Tues	1.30pm	St Matthew's Friendship Group	Gavan Hall Broadford
3rd Wed	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	venue TBA
4th Sun	5.00pm	Church 4 Kids	Christ Church

Parish life this week

Wednesday 4th	<i>[Oswald, king and martyr]</i> 4.45pm Confirmation Class
Thursday 5th	[THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD] 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Broadford 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 6th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House 11.30am Eucharist Caladenia 7.00pm Faith Enhancement Study Group
Saturday 7th	<i>[Dominic, priest and friar (d.1221)]</i> 10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 9th August 2015 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost [19]
2 Samuel 18.5-9, 14, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4. 25- 5.2; John 6.35, 41-51

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism
St Matthews	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155
m 0407569343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett St Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

P O Box 289 Kilmore 3764 VIC

Visit our website www.anglicankilmore.org.au and our Facebook page

