



The Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Wangaratta

**The Parish of Kilmore**

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

**31st January 2016**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Hymns: 611, 699, 473, 613**

*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

Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. *1 Corinthians 13.14*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

## THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 1.4-10**

[Jeremiah is called to be a prophet, and God explains God's knowledge of Jeremiah from his conception, and God's message for Jeremiah to preach. Note both the "yes" and the "no" in the message Jeremiah is given.]

*A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah*

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' 'Alas, Sovereign Lord,' I said, 'I do not know how to speak; I am too young.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am too young." You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, 'I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**PSALM 71. 1-6**

[A prayer for God to protect and be a refuge from one who has trusted and praised God since the womb.]

**Response: You, O Lord, are my confidence and hope.**

Geoff Nobes

**Response**  
*cf. v. 5* You, O Lord, are my con - fi - dence and hope.

In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me./R

Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort;  
send out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.  
Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor./R

For you are my hope, O Lord God,  
my confidence, even from my youth.  
Upon you have I leaned from my birth,  
when you drew me from my mother's womb;  
my praise shall be always of you./R

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 13.1-13

[A celebration of the noble and godly characteristics of love, which lasts forever and is the greatest of all things.]

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians*

Paul writes, 'If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
You shall go to all to | whom I send you.  
Do not be afraid, for | I am with you  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 4.21-30

[After making Isaiah's statement his mandate and claiming the prophecy for himself, Jesus confronts the people of Nazareth with a "no" because, like their ancestors, they are offended by the idea that God can work in and through "outsiders" and Gentiles, and they refuse to accept the teachings of the prophets. This offends the people, and so they attempt to kill him.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord our God, we give thanks for your gospel of good news which you have given us, and through which we have come to know your presence in our lives, to have the courage to be followers of your son Jesus Christ our Lord who has shown us the way of love for all humankind.

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

Lord our God, encourage and enrich your church throughout the world; may your church grow in strength, so that your gospel may be preached to all nations, and the faithful gathered into your kingdom; we remember the work and witness of staff and workers of the Anglican Board of Mission; we pray for our Diocese and John our Bishop, for Deacon Maryann as she prepares for her ordination to the priesthood; and for our parish as we work to bring your love, hope and justice to all we encounter.

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

Lord our God, in your love you blessed the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives; we pray for those committed to protecting our fragile environment; for all who work to keep us safe from inclement weather; for those impacted by fire and flood and for

those in recovery; for those infected by the Zika virus and those researching a vaccine and treatment for the affected.

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

Lord our God, we pray for all nations especially those ravaged by war and violence; we pray for our nation and for those tasked with leadership and those serving the public in the judiciary; may we have trustworthy leaders, wise decision-makers for the general welfare of our people, so that all may enjoy the resources of this land; we pray for our indigenous people and new arrivals; for all refugees, all who seek asylum and those held in detention.

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

Lord our God, we commend to you all who are afflicted, that they may know your compassionate love; we pray for those suffering the ravages of addiction; those traumatised by sexual abuse and those who would abuse, for the sick and suffering and all who grieve; for those losing their health and freedom, especially the elderly and those institutionalised, pray skill, patience, and understanding love to those who provide care for them; for all in need and those on our hearts this day and those who have requested prayer:

*Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Tom Scrivens, Franca Caia, Tom & Sandra Davidson, Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Seth Gunter, Barbara Kaye, Sarah, Lisa, Alex Impols, Elizabeth, Mark Bennetts, Penny, Belinda Shannon, the Bott Family, Bruce Scott, Susan, Jean Evans.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

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

Eternal God, your kingdom of love is open to all who believe; we give thanks for prophets and teachers, healers and pastors who have shown your love to a broken world; we pray for the recently departed, and for those years mind occurring at this time;

*31st Olive Hutchinson; Feb 1st John Kirkpatrick, Diane Robins; 2nd Douglas Schofield (priest); 3rd Jennifer Hedley; 4th Geoffrey Booth, Ken Payne; 5th Sal Winnell, Patrick Deuchar; Charles Cunningham, Reginald Hearn.*

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

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

Lord our God, you formed us in the womb, and before we were born you made us to be your own beloved; hear us as we pray for ourselves.....; keep us in your love, and strengthen our faith and our hope as we journey in faith.

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

Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours, God of the incarnation; because you care for us and for our prayer and in your great love we find strength every time we pray; we make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ your son our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Reflections on the readings

Two major themes stand out in this week's readings: Firstly, is the issue of God's grace; and the second is the consequences of that same grace in the world. God's grace is not always a comfortable and gentle thing to experience. Integral to this grace is the work of justice which distresses the comfortable and self-assured (the "no") even as it comforts the distressed (the "yes"). Jeremiah is told that his message will not only build up but break down; the psalmist reflects on his vulnerability and the threat of evil in spite of his long life of relationship with God; Paul speaks about love as not an easy or comfortable way to follow, but challenges our self-centredness and lethargy toward others; and finally, Jesus makes it clear that his ministry is not "friendly" and non-disruptive, but a life-changing, all-inclusive confrontation of self-righteousness and injustice. The work of grace is not all acceptance and healing. Sometimes it is a wounding battle – not least because we are called to love even those we challenge. Like the people of Nazareth, there are still those who seek to "own" Jesus for themselves. By domesticating Jesus, and editing his message to fit our national, corporate or religious agendas, we tame the Gospel, and make it palatable, with little cost. But, as the people of Nazareth discovered, Jesus will not be tamed, and his grace, while offered to all, also challenges all that resists grace. As Matthew Fox explains, following Jesus means embracing biophilia (loving life and all that supports it and provides joy and enjoyment) and resisting necrophilia (standing against all that robs life, oppresses and abuses). This dual-character of grace is revealed this week in Epiphany. The Scriptures all call us to stand against any attempt to domesticate and "use" Jesus in our world, and, instead, to follow the self-giving, injustice-confronting ways of Jesus as giants of the past like, Wilberforce, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. all did. It can be a tough balance to find, this embracing love of life and joy and "yes" of grace, while simultaneously embracing resistance to fear, oppression and injustice, the "no" of grace. But, if we are to live with integrity, and if we are to bring life and joy to others – especially the weak and vulnerable who most need it – we need to embrace both aspects of our call. If we embrace only the "yes", we end up being naive about evil, easily deceived and manipulated, and our impact on injustice is minimal. If we embrace only the "no" we easily become cynical, judgemental and pessimistic, which also undermines our quest for justice and peace. So, the big challenge this week is to learn to speak and live both the "yes" and the "no" in the name of Christ.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2016) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

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## NOTICES

**Revd Maryann Leonard's Ordination to the Priesthood - next Saturday 6th February. Bus to Wangaratta for Ordination Service** will leave Christ Church at 8.15am and will stop at St Matthews and St Stephens, and will return in the afternoon after the refreshments. Cost \$15. Please put your name on the list at the back of the church. A few people have indicated to Fr Kim - please still add your

name to the list. Please check with others who might want to go and names are not yet on the list.

**Next Sunday Revd Maryann** will celebrate her first Mass at Christ Church; a reception ceremony will commence at 8.30am next Sunday and lead into the 9am Eucharist.

**Bunnings Craigieburn BBQ Sausage Sizzle Saturday 27th February** - A key fundraiser and volunteers needed to assist on the day with cooking, serving and cashier; 2 hours slots available 8am - 4pm - please contact Robyn Whitehouse to reserve your slot. It is a great day and lots of fun.

**Bunnings Craigieburn Cake Stall** - will not proceed as there was lack of support for the event.

**Monthly Parish BBQs** will recommence Sunday 14th February - host required  
Hosts required for other months please contact Fr Kim or Caroline Burge.

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

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### Upcoming Events

Saturday 6th Feb	11.00am	Ordination Service	Wangaratta
Tuesday 9th Feb	6.00pm	Strove Tuesday - Pancakes	Christ Church
	7.30pm	Lenten Study	13 The Parade Broadford
Wednesday 10th Feb	10.00am	Ash Wednesday Service	St Matthews
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Christ Church
Sunday 14th Feb	12.30pm	Parish BBQ	TBA
Tuesday 23rd Feb	7.30pm	Lenten Study	13 The Parade Broadford
Saturday 27th Feb	8am-4pm	Bunnings BBQ	Craigieburn
Tuesday 8th March	7.30pm	Lenten Study	13 The Parade Broadford
Sunday 13th March		Harvest Festival / Commitment Sunday	
	12.30pm	Parish BBQ	Whitehouse's
Sunday 20th March		Palm Sunday	
Mon-Wed 21-23 March		Holy Week	
Thursday 24th March	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Liturgy	Christ Church
Friday 25th March		Good Friday	
Sunday 27th March		Easter Day	



## Parish life this week

Tuesday 1st Feb 7.30pm Faith Enhancement Group 13 The Parade Broadford  
Wednesday 2nd 7.30pm Property Committee Meeting Gavan Hall  
Thursday 3rd 10.00am Eucharist, Willowmeade  
11.30am Eucharist Caladenia  
4.00pm Eucharist, Dianella  
Friday 29th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House  
Saturday 30th 10.00am - 12.30pm Op Shop, Church House  
11.00am Ordination Wangaratta

### SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

7th February 2016 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6.1-8; Ps 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

<b>Christ Church</b>	8.30am	Reception Liturgy for Revd Maryann Leonard
	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>St Matthews</b>	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>St Stephens</b>	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>Transfiguration</b>	4.00pm	Holy Eucharist

### Parish Clergy

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

**Honorary Deacon** Revd Maryann Leonard, 49 Chloe Drive, Broadford, 3658  
Ph 0439 066 553; maryann.leonard@bigpond.com

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

P O Box 289 Kilmore 3764

Visit our website [www.anglicankilmore.org.au](http://www.anglicankilmore.org.au)



Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning.