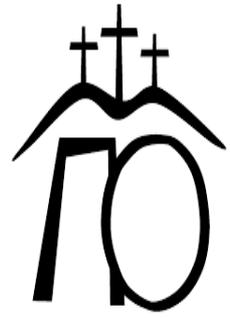




The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta



7th May 2017
Fourth Sunday of Easter
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Hymns: 477, 393, 411, 59



Introit Hymn

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed Alleluia

We are the body of the risen 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

SENTENCE

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' *John 10.11*

THE COLLECT

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 2.42-47

A reading from the book of Acts

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Response Geoff Nobes
cf. v. 1 The Lord is my shep-herd, there is no-thing I shall want.



The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake./R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me./R

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full./R

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever./R

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2.1-10

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ and, ‘A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.

I know my own and my | own know me.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

‘Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger’s voice.’ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me

are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflections on the Readings

The Lectionary readings this week offers a wonderful and rich connection of ideas. In this season of the resurrection, the life of Christ is still uppermost in our minds, and Jesus’ promise that he has come to give life is at the heart of such reflections. The rest of the Gospel, though, and the other readings, all reflect on how life is lived when the care and compassion of God direct us. In the Acts reading we are given a glimpse at the true community of the first disciples and their care for one another. In Psalm 23 we are reminded of God’s care and attention toward God’s people. In Peter’s letter, written to those who are being persecuted for Christ’s sake, there is the assurance that their suffering is not meaningless, and that it is a sharing in Christ’s sacrifice, even as God watches over them. Finally, in John’s Gospel, Jesus, in speaking about his life, warns about those who pretend to care for ‘the sheep’ but don’t. In a confusing contrast he is both the Shepherd who does care, and the gate through which the true Shepherd enters to call the sheep, and through which the sheep pass in order to find pasture and life. While it is not the purpose of this short reflection to unravel all of these metaphors, the essential message is clear – the life of Jesus is given and received by mutual care, compassion and protection. The resurrection does not offer some individualised, blissful life. Rather, it calls us into a life that is shared with others who follow Christ, to whom we belong and for whom we are responsible, even as they as are called to care for us. It is only together – in community – that Christ’s life can be known and enjoyed. Like the early believers we are called to share all things, to ‘do life’ together, and

to endure whatever persecution or hardship we may face with the same grace and forgiveness that Christ demonstrated. And unlike the false shepherds, who care nothing for the sheep, we are both the sheep who enjoy God's care, and the 'shepherds' or 'gatekeepers' who care for the sheep and help them to find life-giving pasture. What this interconnected experience of life means, is that we can no longer ignore what happens on the other side of the world. We are connected with the poor, the sick, the refugee and the oppressed; we are called to expose the thieves who break in and steal personhood and livelihoods through corruption and dehumanising practices. As followers of Christ, we can use our love and compassion to change the world so that the most vulnerable people are no longer abused, but are cared for and provided for by people who truly seek their best, and who seek a better world in which all are secure, all are provided for and all are included in the community of humanity.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2014). © Sacredise - www.sacredise.com

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd of your people, you call us to follow where you lead; give us ears to hear and know your voice, and give us the courage and strength to lay down our lives for one another, as even you laid down your life for us.

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, you have blessed us with green pastures and still waters-places in your world where we find rest and renewal; we pray for those who live in desolate places, where food and water are scarce; where disease and trauma suck the goodness out of life; where violence and deprivation destroys and blackens souls and spirits; for the people of South Sudan, Syria and Iraq.

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, hear our prayers for your church; for all who have lost their way and strayed from your path; for those seduced by other voices, for all who are shepherds to your flock, pastors and chaplains; for our Bishop John and our parish that we may tread the path that leads to abundant life and draw all to your way.

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, hear our prayer for our country and those tasked with governing; for our parliamentarians that we may share with justice the resources of this land; for those seeking refuge and asylum and those in detention; for the very old and the very young and those unable to care for themselves; for the unemployed and those who can not provide for their families, open our hearts to be shepherd to others with loving generosity.

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, even when wolves attack, you never leave your loved ones; even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are present; be with those who abuse others and those who suffer abuse at the hands of others; may they know comfort in their distress; we pray for the sick and the suffering of body and mind' for the dying and those who mourn lost loved ones; comfort us all on each dark and stony path, that in your presence we may not be afraid. We pray for those in need, especially those known to us and those who have requested prayer...

Request for prayer from: *Chris Schafer, Joan Hiscock, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Fay Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Francis Piva, Sharon De Battista, Iris Haywood*

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, you are our salvation and you open the gate to eternal life; grant all who have died a dwelling place in your house forever, for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time.

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

God of love; **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through valleys of death to places of plenteousness; hear us as we pray for ourselves guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, were we celebrate with you forever.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen

Year's mind: Today we remember before God those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: *Raymond Pitman, Evelyn Carboon (5th), Mabel Fullard (6th), Rodney Heppell (10th), Elvie Walker, Brianna Hodges, Bill Beckingsale (11th), Alisha Becker (13th).*

Notices

A warm welcome to our Parish to Fr Paul Dalzell who will be our Parish Locum for the coming few months while the parish is vacant. Fr Paul will be living in the Rectory from Thursday to Sunday each week starting on May 18th.

Pyalong Mass, Thursday Broadford Mass, Dianella and Caladenia Services: Please note that this afternoon's Sunday Mass at Pyalong has been cancelled. Also note that the usual Thursday services at Broadford, Dianella and Caladenia will be cancelled until Thursday 18th.

Temporary furniture required: If anyone has a double bed that could be lent to the parish for the Rectory on a temporary basis while Fr Paul is with us, please contact Caroline.

Fr Kim's Farewell. Thank you to everyone who came and took part in Fr Kim's farewell last Sunday. It was a wonderful occasion and a fitting farewell to our Priest. Donations are still being accepted for Fr Kim's farewell present. Please see one of the Wardens if you wish to donate. Thank you.

Parish BBQ: The May monthly "BBQ" will be postponed from next week (Mothers Day) to Sunday 21st May. Due to the sudden onset of cold weather, this will be in the form of bring and share casseroles/soup and hot food (plenty of stove space). Venue - Caroline's house.

Act For Peace East Africa Famine Emergency Appeal - the National Council of Churches Christmas Bowl has launched an appeal to help mitigate the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. Over 1 million are at risk of starvation. Please use the envelopes to give generously.

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser: Our next Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser will be held on Saturday July 22nd. Please contact Robyn Whitehouse if you can help. With enough helpers, rostered times will be 1 - 2 hours.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please use these bank details when making offerings.

Parish Diary

1st Wed of the month: Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm (venue TBA)

2nd Sun of the month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

3rd Tues of the month: St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm
contact Edie Simpson ph. 5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wed of the month: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA

Parish life this week

Thursday 11th 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade

Please note - no services at St Matthew's, Dianella or Caladenia this week

Friday 12th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House

Saturday 13th 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 14th May 2017 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5, 17-18 1 Peter 2:11-25; John 14:1-14		
Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's	11am	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

Locum Priest (Thursday - Sunday only): Fr Paul Dalzell. 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155 rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

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

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764
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.