

Anglican Parish of Avon

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman

14 March, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Laetare Sunday

Celebration of the Harvest Festival and Holy Communion

8.30am St Mary's Munro

10am Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.

All are welcome!!

A hand is shown reaching down from the top right towards three crosses on a hill. The background is a sunset sky with orange, yellow, and purple clouds. The crosses are silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSEVER
BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. - JOHN 3:16**

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' – MP 50

1 Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

2 Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned:
how awesome is the sight –
our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

3 Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace –
no work too hard for Him.
In faith receive from Him.

Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

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Greeting

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

God loves us with a steadfast love.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

God loves us so much he gave us his Son.
Let us believe and have eternal life!

God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.
Let us have faith to receive this grace!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

The Sentence

“The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may
have eternal life.”

(John 3. 14–15)

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence for self-reflection

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Trisagion

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:
give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
no weakness prevent us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Numbers

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. *Numbers 21.4-9*

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107. 1-3, 17-22

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
for his loving mercy is for ever.

**2 Let the Lord's redeemed say so:
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,**

3 And gathered in from every land,
from the east and from the west:
from the north and from the south.

**17 Fools were far gone in transgression:
and because of their sins were afflicted.**

18 They sickened at any food:
and had come to the gates of death.

**19 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:
and he took them out of their trouble.**

20 He sent his word and healed them:
and saved their life from the Pit.

**21 Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:
and for the wonders that he does
for the children of Adam;**

22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving:
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians/

¹ You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived,
following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air,

the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2.1-10

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Early Talk

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’ *John 3.14-21*

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Time of discussion

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: ‘Holy Spirit, we welcome you’ – MP 50

1 Holy Spirit, we welcome You,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Move among us with holy fire
as we lay aside all earthly desire,
hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

2 Holy Spirit, we welcome You,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Let the breeze of Your presence blow
that Your children here might truly know
how to move in the Spirit’s flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

3 Holy Spirit, we welcome You,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!
Please accomplish in us today
some new work of loving grace, we pray –
unreservedly – have Your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,

share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.

He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

With thanksgiving and hope we say:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

**You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:**

**Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:

O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out of God's People

God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

**Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Announcements/Kid's time

Final Hymn: 'All the people said Amen'

1 You are not alone if you are lonely,
When you feel afraid you're not the only,
We are all the same in need of mercy,
To be forgiven and be free,
It's all you got to lean on,

But thank God it's all you need.

Chorus:

*And all the people said amen, whoa,
And all the people said amen,
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends,
And all the people said amen.*

2 If you're rich or poor well it don't matter,
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after,
We're all broken but we're all in this together,
God knows we stumble and fall,
And He so loved the world,
He sent His son to save us all.
And all the people said amen...

Bridge:

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God

*And all the people said amen, whoa,
And all the people said amen,
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends,
And all the people said amen.
//And all the people said amen.//*

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The Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

Everlasting God, as your son Jesus Christ showed his love on the cross, in his compassion for his mother and his sacrifice for us all, may we know what it is to love and be loved, in words and in actions.

We pray:-

- *For care of the environment and world-wide conscientious efforts to control climate change.
 - *For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven and new beginnings for refugees.
 - *For an end to the racial, social, and domestic violence and social injustices around the world and particularly in our own country.
 - * **For the National Close the Gap Day: This Thursday 18 March.** May the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous people in terms of health, mortality, education, employment, poverty and incarcerations be closed by 2033.

 - *For the people of Myanmar suffering suppression and persecution at the dictatorship of the military.
 - *May all nations' people benefit from the blessing of vaccines to control Covid-19
 - *For the worldwide church, our Diocese, and the churches in our local community.
 - *For Bishop Richard and his family as, he leads the faith-life of the Diocese.
 - *For Dave as he leads the ministry, discipleship and pastoral caring in our parish and community.
 - *For Emma and their 4 children.
 - *We ask you to walk closely with Dave, Emma, and children in this remarkably busy and at times challenging year.
 - *For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all who donate to our ministry and mission.
 - *For the mainly music team, and for the families who gather here each Thursday morning.
 - *For our preparation and contemplation through the Holy Season of Lent
 - *For our Retiring Offertory – **Vanuatu - Prevention of Blindness.**
- Father God, we remember that as we celebrate Mothering Sunday today there are those who do not share our happiness, those who are sick, those

who are sad, those who are lonely, those who separated from their families and those who live in families where there is little joy. We raise before you now those who need healing in their lives and give you thanks where healing has taken place.

We pray especially for Heather, Marion, Cliff, Paul, Aubrey, Bev, Julie, Liliias, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

We reflect and give thanks for the life of Denis. For Kath, their much loved and loving family, their many, many friends and the community that held Denis in such high esteem and affection. Over his life-time Denis was a family first man, a great athlete, a wonderful supporter and advocate for youth as well as the community at large.

We give thanks for the life of Allan and pray for Ruth, their loving family and all who mourn his death. A much-loved husband, father, grandfather, and community man.

Loving God grant your comfort and peace to all who mourn the death of loved ones.

Gracious God, as we go out into the coming week may we reflect your love for us in our families, our church and our community; so that the world can see that we are followers of your son Jesus Christ and draw others into his loving care.

NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings Everyone,

Today is Mothering Sunday or Laetare Sunday and we will share the beautiful Simnel Cake made by Liliias – thank you Liliias.

Our thanks to Judy Tulloch for the Harvest display at Holy Trinity, always so tastefully done.

Immediately after the 10am service in Holy Trinity, we will auction the fresh produce and the preserves will be taken to the Salvation Army food bank later in the week.

At 4pm today Dave will offer the monthly Healing Service. This is a lovely service of prayer and homily. All are welcome!

Tuesday evening last, a focus group met to discuss . . . ‘What we value most’, ‘what is our top priority’, and ‘what is one thing we would change’ across 3 layers:- This parish, the Diocese of Gippsland, and the Anglican Church. The outcomes of the discussion have been forwarded to the Registry as our voice in the Diocesan Vision Renewal Process, 2021-2024. Whilst we value the opportunity for each ministry centre and parish to have a voice in the process, the exercise was immensely helpful in forward planning for our own parish – so watch this space!

Parish Council reports are due this Tuesday – please.

This coming Friday we will gather at 6pm in the Avon Hotel for our Autumn Parish Dinner. Please book-in ASAP with wardens Denise or Bev.

This Saturday 20 March at 8.30pm, the Men’s Breakfast will take place in the Parish Hall. The first Breakfast in the Parish Hall for 12 months!!

Sunday next at Holy Trinity, 21 March, we will welcome Don and Meg McRaid, the founders of the Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project. Don, our guest speaker, will give an update on this important mission.

National Close the Gap Day: This Thursday 18 March.

Australia's peak Indigenous and non-Indigenous health bodies, NGOs and human rights organisations are working together to achieve equality in health and life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Close the Gap Campaign aims to close the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation. The campaign is built on evidence that shows significant improvements in the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can be achieved by 2030.

Despite the efforts of many organisations like Oxfam etc. and tens of thousands of people, the gap between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people's life expectancy is widening not closing. This needs to be turned around with decisive action and clear commitments from our political leaders.

The Indigenous led Close the Gap campaign aims to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.



MARCH

Thursdays 9.30am mainly music. Parish Hall during School Term

Mission: Eye Care Vanuatu

Tues 16 Parish Council Reports Due

Wed 17 St Patrick's Day

Thurs 18 National Close the Gap Day

Fri 19 6pm Autumn Parish Dinner at Stratford – Raffle

Sat 20 Men's Breakfast in the Parish Hall.

Sun 21 Lent 5. Don McRaid Guest speaker at Holy Trinity.

Harmony Day

Cultural Diversity Week (21-28 March) is held annually in March to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Harmony on 21 March. Bringing people together to not only celebrate Victoria's **diversity**, but to also spark their curiosity about **culture** and about each other.

Tues 23 Parish Council Meeting

Friday 26 Family Movie Night – probably on hold.

Sat 27 10am Women's Craft Group

Sun 28 8am St Mary's, 9.30am Holy Trinity,

11am Ecumenical Procession & Prayer.

Tues 30 11am Chrism Eucharist and Renewal of Ordination Vows at the Cathedral. A light lunch in the Delbridge Hall.

Thurs 1 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service at Holy Trinity

Fri 2 9am Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity

Sat 3 Holy Saturday. Easter Vigil. Avon parishioners to Cathedral

Sun 4 Easter Day. Resurrection of the Lord. Easter Eggs for the Parish. DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS

8.30am Holy Communion at All Saints

10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Family Worship

2pm Holy Communion at St Mary's Munro

Sunday 21 March, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 3.31-34. Ps119.9-16 Hebrews 5.5-14. John 12.20-33

Priest: Dave, Lit Assist: Vic. 1st Read Wendy. 2nd Kerrie S.

Intercess: Vic. Org: May. Sides: Bev T, Denise

Camera David S. PPT: Denise. Flowers: Lent

MT. Nola, Judy T. Sac: Kerrie Smith.

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