

Anglican Parish of Avon

Priest in Charge, The Rev Dave Perryman

25 April, The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Services of Holy Communion at
8.30am St Mary's Munro
10am Holy Trinity Church Stratford.

All are welcome!!

Today is ANZAC Day

"They gave their

TODAY

for our

TOMORROW"

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: 'Here in this place' – TiS 474

1 Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame,
call to us now and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you,
nourish us well and teach us to fashion,
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

3 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own,
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

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Welcome

Greeting

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.

Call to worship

Come, walk in green pastures.

We follow the Shepherd.

Come, lie down in green pastures.

We trust the Shepherd.

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

We are fed by the Shepherd.

Come, dwell in God's house.

We live in the Shepherd's care.

The Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.' *(John 10. 14)*

Prayer of preparation

Let us pray,

**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

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, our ruler and guide,
in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
may have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
of generosity, and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who
were of the high-priestly family.
⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By
what power or by what name did you do this?’
⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people
and elders,
⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who
was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,
¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is
standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.
¹¹ This Jesus is
“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”
¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven
given among mortals by which we must be saved.’ *Acts 4.5-12*

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

Psalm 23 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.**

**2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.**

**3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.**

**4 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 comfort me.

**5 You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.**

**6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

The Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.
1 John 3. 16-24

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

Early Talk

The Gospel

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

¹¹ ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’ *John 10. 11-18*

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

Sermon

The Affirmation of the Resurrection

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,**

and this we believe.

Amen.

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Risen God, 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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: 'Hallelujah sing to Jesus' – MP 207

1 Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, His the throne;
hallelujah! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by His blood.

2 Hallelujah! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
hallelujah! He is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

3 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high;
to the Father, and the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
glory to the Holy Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
to the triune Majesty.

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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.

By his death on the cross,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks
that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.
By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day is dawning,
a broken world is being restored
and we are being made whole once more.

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.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

**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.

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with
thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive Communion and when receiving feel free
to stand or kneel.*

*Due to COVID our communion will be served in one kind (bread only).
We have gluten free wafers available. Please indicate to the minister if
you would prefer either of these.*

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are seeking prayer for healing/anointing, please come towards the end of communion and remain kneeling.

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

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Announcements

Final Hymn: 'The Lord's my shepherd' – MP 1008

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

Refrain:

*And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.
And I will trust...

3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me, and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.
And I will trust...

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The Blessing

Nourished by the Shepherd's abundant love,
Go now to love, even when love involves risk.
Go now to care, even when caring is hard.
Go now to love, in truth and in action,
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

ANZAC Day

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray:-

*For care of the environment and world-wide conscientious efforts to control climate change.

*Eternal Lord God we pray for peace in the world. Especially commend to your mercy the homeless and refugees; those who have been dispossessed and have lost their employment; those whose families have been disrupted and who mourn the loss of loved ones and grieve for loved ones held in political prisons. We pray for the situation in Myanmar and the crimes against humanity suffered by the Uyghurs in North West China. Grant that sane and selfless councils may prevail in these places and rise above the forces of evil, and wherever there is warfare and persecution.

*Especially for the People of PNG and India, suffering dreadfully from the scourges of the Covid-19 virus which is out of control in their country.

*For an end to the racial, social, and domestic violence and violence against women and children.

*We pray for 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 that we can share the load.

*For Emma and their 4 children.

*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 Retiring Offertory – **BCA**

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 Nathan, Val, Marion, Cliff, Paul, Bev, Julie, Lillas, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

Everlasting God, we ask that you would bless us here at Avon Parish with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to the world. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do your bidding, always mindful of your amazing love for us.

NEWS AND NOTES.

What a delight it was to welcome Luke Vesperman into God's Church through Holy Baptism last Sunday. We thank Luke's parents, Claire and Aaron, for sharing the occasion with us. It is always a great privilege to give witness and support to those receiving the Sacrament of Baptism and their families.

This coming Sunday the Ecumenical Traditional Service of Evensong will commence at 4.30pm in Holy Trinity

Bishop Richard will be presiding, Priest Dave assisting, The Reverend Nikolai Blaskow preaching and The Stratford Singers singing. We will be hosting a light tea after the service.

***Please plan to keep this date free it will be a great evening . . . invite friends!**

Bev T and Wendy will be coordinating the catering and will be engaging your assistance this Sunday.

Parish Council will meet on Tuesday, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

This Thursday 29 April, the Family Fun Fair Planning Meeting will convene at 11am. Everybody welcome!

Please note time is marching on towards the Family Fun Fair on Saturday 22 May. Time frameworks for the next 6 weeks include forward notices in the Bulletin re:-

- Parishioners who are preserves makers, we are asking please, for donations of jams and pickles etc – thank you.
- Request to parishioners to please commence baking cakes, slices etc in early May and up to the Fun Fair.
- Request to parishioners to please bake biscuits for the tea and coffee stand.

As always, sharing of assistance and support is greatly appreciated.¹⁵

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

April

Thursdays 9.30am mainly music in Parish Hall during School Term. School Holidays 2 April to 18 April.

Retiring Offertory BCA

Tues 27

Parish Council Meeting

7.30pm. The Reverends Jenny and Tony Wicking to be formally inducted in the Parish of Yarram.

MAY

Thursdays

mainly music, 9.30am. Parish Hall, During School Term

Retiring Offertory: Leprosy Mission

May 1

10am to 3.30pm. Anam Cara Final Quiet Day, Cathedral

Sunday 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter.

All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

4.30pm Traditional Service of Evensong. Bishop Richard Treloar, The Reverend Nikolai Blaskow, The Reverend Dave Perryman. Light tea to follow the service.

Sun 9

MOTHERS DAY

Congregational Meeting at Holy Trinity (2)

4pm Healing Service

Thurs 13

Family Fun Fair Meeting.

*Ascension Day **In Australia, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between Ascension and the Day of Pentecost.*

Fri 14

Synod commences.

Sat 15

Men's Breakfast

Sun 16

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mon 17-Sun 23

National Volunteers Week

Tues 18

Parish Council Reports Due

Thurs 20

Family Fun Fair Meeting

Fri 21

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Sat 22

Family Fun Fair

Sun 23

Day of Pentecost, Whitsunday

Sunday 2 May, Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Acts 8.26-40. Ps 22.26-32 2nd Read 1John 4.7-21. John 15.1-8

Priest: Dave, Lit Assist: Denise. 1st Read Vic. 2nd -

Intercess: Denise. Org: May. Sides: Kerrie & David S

Camera: Paul/Judy K. Flowers: Wendy.

MT. Bev T. Kerrie S. Sac: Kerrie S.

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