

# Anglican Parish of Avon

**Sunday 17th. March 2019, Second Sunday of Lent**

**Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.**

**Welcome to Mr Peter Down, Guest Speaker in the Parish Today.**

**Today we celebrate the Harvest Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity.**

**This week is Cultural Diversity Week 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March,**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March is Harmony Day.**

**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: - A Service of Holy Communion at: -**

**- 8.30am, All Saints Church, Briagolong.**

**- 10am, Holy Trinity Church Stratford. 4pm, Healing Service at Holy Trinity**

You are invited to light a 'Prayer Candle' and enjoy morning tea after the Services. Toilets are located at the rear of the Hall. Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop. Please note that the Holy Trinity Chancel floor slopes up from the front pews to the Lectern; please use the handrail as needed and take care, thank you.

*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: MP 315 'I will sing . . .'**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Greeting and Sentence.**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3.20

**The Prayer of Preparation. The Trisagion**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of our ancestors,

*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
CLOSER TO JESUS

whose chosen servant Abraham  
was given faith to obey your call  
and go out into the unknown:  
endow your Church with such faith  
that we may follow you with courage;  
for the sake of 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**

### ***JOURNEY TOWARD TRUST***

*When you find yourself in a space such as Lent, where life seems thinner than usual and the journey more focused than usual, what do people of faith do to keep journeying on? In ancient times, rituals helped to remind the people of the promise, as yet unfulfilled and gave reason to trust what seemed to be impossible.*

### **A Reading from Genesis**

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ <sup>8</sup> But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ <sup>9</sup> He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

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

**Psalm 27** (Alternate verses)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?:

the Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
come upon me to devour me:  
they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> If an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid:  
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I have asked from the Lord,  
which I will require:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,**

<sup>5</sup> To see the fair beauty of the Lord:  
and to seek his will in his temple.

<sup>6</sup> **For he will hide me under his shelter  
in the day of trouble:  
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,  
and set me high upon a rock.**

<sup>7</sup> And now he will lift up my head:  
above my enemies round about me.

<sup>8</sup> **And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary  
with exultation:  
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:  
have mercy upon me and answer me.

<sup>10</sup> **My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':  
your face, Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not hide your face from me:  
or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

<sup>12</sup> **For you have been my helper:  
do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

<sup>13</sup> Though my father and my mother forsake me:  
the Lord will take me up.

<sup>14</sup> **Teach me your way, O Lord:  
and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.**

<sup>15</sup> Do not give me over to the will of my enemies:  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and those who breathe out violence.

<sup>16</sup> **But I believe that I shall surely see  
the goodness of the Lord:  
in the land of the living.**

<sup>17</sup> O wait for the Lord;  
stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:  
and wait, I say, for the Lord.

### **A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians**

**3** <sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

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



### **Children's Spot**

**The Gradual Hymn: MP 601 'Sing alleluia . . . .'** (V 1, 3, 4)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should

it be wasting the soil?”<sup>8</sup> He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” Luke 13.1-9

For the Gospel of the Lord

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

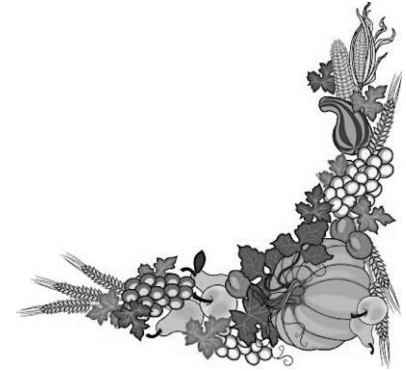
## **Sermon**

Reflection

### **Affirmation of Faith**

### **Prayers of the People**

On this day of celebration of the Harvest Festival let us say a Harvest Prayer



**Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment.**

**Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.**

**Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.**

**May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.**



In this week of Reflection on our Cultural Diversity and particularly on Harmony Day on Thursday 21st we give thanks for the richness of our Diversity and pray that we will always be tolerant.

We pray in thanks for the rich diversity present in both church and society. May we appreciate the gifts we receive in sharing life, work, and prayer with one another.

**You created all people in your image.**

**We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in Australia and in our community.**

**Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship, and show us your**

**presence in those who differ most from us.**

**Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.**

**Grant that we may show equal respect to all persons of different cultures that we may come across.**

**And help us to remember and appreciate that we are one country, with many stories.**

**We Pray now for: -**

- **For countries afflicted** by war and political unrest – for the people who are the victims of war and aggression.
- Refugees all over the world. For an end to despair and beginning of new hope.
- For those who have suffered and are suffering devastation and loss from the fires Gippsland and floods in Queensland. We give thanks for our safety and the safety of those we love.
- For greater concern and care for our environment and resources.
- For the surviving victims of sexual abuse. For love, empathy and justice for them, and respect for our courts.
- That faith and the church will rise above these dark days of revelation of the cruel and despicable wrongs of the past, especially those suffered by defenseless children. That the love of Christ will prevail, belief and faith will be restored and will enfold those who do not yet know your love.

**The local community: We pray for: -**

Our community, families, friends, neighbours, those who are lonely and those struggling in the community. That we will give witness of Your love for all.

- Our ministries of mainly music and the op shop. That they will continue to grow to your glory.

**The Church: We pray for: -**

- Bishop Richard as he leads the clergy and ministry of the Diocese.
- The Parish of Yarram and all who worship there.
- *All in the Parish of Avon, for David and his ministry in the parish and beyond. For Emma in her ministry and support of David, and for their boys. For our ministry teams and our support of David.*
- Our Retiring Offertory this month – The Hope-Restart program, giving thanks for Peter Down’s inspirational leadership, his great mission and his presence with us today.

- For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit and for those who care for them. For the sick; for those who mourn; for those without faith, hope or love. We pray for those known to us and those who are in special need of our prayers at this time.

Crystal, Pete, Cassidy, Prec, Bruce, Shane, David, Geoff, Ray, Isobel, Emma, Jacob, Daryl, Ned, Jan, Bob, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.

Loving God as we go out into the world today help us to resist temptation, remembering that your son was tempted by the world and the devil but chose faithfulness over popularity, service above fame and sacrifice instead of power.

**Confession      Absolution**

**Greeting of Peace.      Offertory Hymn MP 442 ‘Lord of the Church . . .’**

**Holy Communion.      Announcements.**

**Final Hymn: MP 1167 ‘Even though I walk . . .’ (A)**

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## **News and Notes**

**\*Our Healing Service will commence in Holy Trinity at 4pm this afternoon.**

**\*Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day** Held 16-24 March 2019, this will be the 17th year of Cultural Diversity Week. Coinciding with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Harmony Day which is held every year on 21 March, Cultural Diversity Week is a fantastic way to celebrate the everyday diversity of Victorians / Australians and reflect on what gives us all a sense of belonging in our multicultural community.

While the many cultures of Victoria’s First Peoples remain in continuous connection to this land, successive waves of migration have seen people from all over the world arrive to our state. Today, almost half of Victorians were either born overseas or have at least one parent who was born overseas. We come from 200 countries, speak over 260 languages and follow more than 130 different faiths.

**\*As mentioned last week,** time has flown and we must hurriedly collect for the op shop Easter Raffle. **Please leave donations of Easter Eggs etc in the basket at the back of Holy Trinity or at the op shop.**

**\* Parish Council Reports are due by Wednesday of this week please.**

**\*We have been invited to support ‘Biscuits for Prisoners’** again this year. Please speak to Judy Kelly if you wish to be included in this worthy mission.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

### MARCH

- Thursdays* 9.30am mainly music in the Parish Hall. During School Term  
*Fridays* 9am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity  
**Wed. 20<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Reports due.  
**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>** Harmony Day Australia. March Equinox  
**Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** Lent 3 Congregational Meeting (1)  
**Tues 26<sup>th</sup>** Freemason's Service.  
**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting  
**Sun 31<sup>st</sup>** Lent 4. Mothering Sunday. No Ecumenical Service

### APRIL

- Thursdays* 9.30am mainly music during school term.  
*Fridays* 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity.  
*School holidays: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April*  
**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Lent 5. End of Daylight Saving.  
**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday. 8am St Mary's Munro. 9.30am Holy Trinity. 11am Ecumenical procession & prayer. Dave to finalise  
**Tues 16<sup>th</sup>** 11am Chrism Eucharist and Renewal of Ordination Vows at the Cathedral. A light lunch will follow the service in the Delbridge Hall. Dave attending.  
**Wed 17<sup>th</sup>.** Parish Council Reports Due.  
**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>** Maundy Thursday Service at Holy Trinity  
**Fri. 19<sup>th</sup>.** Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity  
**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>.** Holy Saturday. ?7.30pm Easter Vigil. Avon to attend the Cathedral. Men's Breakfast Group  
**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** Easter Day  
8.30am Holy Communion at All Saints (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)  
10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity.  
2pm at St Mary's Munro.  
**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** Easter Tuesday. St Mary's Church Anniversary.  
**Wed. 24<sup>th</sup>.** Wreath making, 2pm, at the RSL.  
**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>** ANZAC Day. Dawn and 9am services at Stratford Memorial Park. Dave leading the Lords Prayer (9am)  
Parish Council Meeting  
**Sat 27<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Planning Day: 10am-12md.  
**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>** Morning Services Jane Preaching. 4.30pm Traditional Service of Evensong. Bard's Birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1564. The Rev'd Nicolai Blaskow.  
**ROSTER - 24th March, Third Sunday in Lent.**

**Read: Isaiah 55.1-9. Ps.63.1-9. Cor.10.1-13 . Luke 13.31-35.**

**Priest: David. Sunday School: Judy K. Lit. Assist: Marion. 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy K.  
Readers: Sandra, Neil. Intercess: Marion. Org: Vic. Sides: Wendy, Jan.  
PPT: Denise. Flowers: N/A Morning Tea: Judy T, Bev T. Sac: Denise.**

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