

# Anglican Parish of Avon

**Sunday 7th. April 2019, Fifth Sunday of Lent.**

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

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

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

**- 10am, Holy Trinity Church Stratford.**

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: TIS 655 'O let the Son of God . . .'**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Greeting and Sentence.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. *Psalm 126.6*

**The Prayer of Preparation. The Trisagion**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God,  
the Redeemer of all who trust in you:  
heed the cry of your people,  
and deliver us from the bondage of sin,  
that we may serve you in perfect freedom  
and rejoice in your unfailing love;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
**Lent**  
We prepare

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### *THE FRAGRANCE OF LIFE*

*This week's readings remind us of the deep connection between giving and receiving. True love is never one-sided. Life revealed in Christ is participatory; it points to the new and fresh ways about which Isaiah speaks, the psalmist's hope of restoration, and Paul's pressing goal.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord ,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honour me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.                      Isaiah 43.16-21

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

*In **Isaiah 43:16–21**, the prophet uses vivid and sensual imagery in beckoning Israel with the gracious promise of deliverance. The catch is, the way forward summons letting go of the past and opening to the “new things” God is about to do. The original audience was the exiled people of Judah in Babylon. Many had been born*

*in exile, never having seen the land related to in these promises. Some scholars argue that many of the exiles had grown secure and even prosperous over the years. Letting go of the familiar and moving outward toward promise would have required a remarkable act of trust in God's power when all they had known was the empire norms of Babylon's power.*

## **Psalm 126**

- <sup>1</sup> When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:  
then were we like those restored to life.
- <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter:  
and our tongue with singing.
- <sup>3</sup> Then said they among the heathen:  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- <sup>4</sup> Truly the Lord has done great things for us:  
and therefore we rejoiced.
- <sup>5</sup> Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:  
as the streams return to the dry south.
- <sup>6</sup> Those who sow in tears:  
shall reap with songs of joy.
- <sup>7</sup> They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:  
shall come again in gladness,  
bringing their sheaves with them.

*Psalm 126 is a song of thanksgiving for the return from exile, as promised in Isaiah. God's ministering to the people has resulted in a celebrated restoration that is still ongoing.*

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

<sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup> even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and

the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.      Philippians 3.3-14

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



## Children's Spot

**The Gradual Hymn: MP. 577 'Rejoice in the Lord . . .'** (Twice)

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

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.' <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'      John 12.1-8

For the Gospel of the Lord  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*John 12:1–8 The sweet smell of life and the unsettling odour of death frame this story of Mary anointing Jesus with costly perfume. The last time Jesus visited with Mary and Martha, their brother Lazarus had died and was four days in the tomb. When Jesus arrived with the promise of new life, Martha captured the hopelessness often associated with death when she says, "already there was a stench" John 11:39. Though the unwelcome odour of death no longer clings to Lazarus, John 12:1 reminds us of the stench that had once been his fate.*

*In what can only be described as a prophetic act intended to counter the looming stench of death which Jesus 'is about to face, Mary responds by anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume, filling the house with its fragrance. Mary's prophetic act provides a vivid and sensual reminder that the way of life is marked by generosity, abundance, and compassion. It awakens our senses to the fullness of life which Jesus proclaims. In sharp contrast, the stench of death hangs all over Judas, who offers the argument of caring for the poor while lining his own pockets.*

*Mary stirs up trouble. Rather than anointing Jesus' head or hands, Mary bows her body to his feet, and then brings her hair into her hands to wipe the oil into his flesh. This is a powerfully sensual story that might be difficult to hear and imagine. But remember that in a few days Jesus will bow down to wash the feet of his disciples, challenging the power dynamics of the empire-defined world in which they (and we) live. What trouble needs to be stirred up in your world to remind people of what matters most? What sensibilities can be challenged, and what senses invoked to wake people up?*

## **Sermon**

## **Reflection**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **We Pray for: -**

- All who suffer hardships of war, famine and disease.
- Refugees all over the world. For an end to despair and beginning of new hope.
- All who suffer persecution for their faith
- Justice, healing and respect for all who have suffered child abuse. For correct and truthful judgment of perpetrators and those accused of sexual abuse of children
- Appropriate care and preservation of the environment.

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



- The people with whom we share our lives. All community services particularly those that protect and care for us.
- Continued success of our mainly music program. For safety and refreshment for all children, families, and volunteers over the school term holidays.
- The continued success of op shop trading, ministry and mission. For coordinators Bev and John.

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

- Bishop Richard as he leads the clergy and people of the diocese. For Leanne, Rachel and Nicholas.
- **All in the Parish of Avon**, for David as he continues to lead us through this contemplative time of Lent and as he prepares for the sacred occasions of worship during Easter week and 3 services on Easter Day. s
- Our Retiring Offertory this month, the MAF Mission
- Parish of Bairnsdale, Brenda Burney, Rod.
- Our Sister Diocese, the Diocese of Gahini, Rwanda. Bishops Alexis Bilindabagabo and Manasseh Gahima
- Diocese of Adelaide Archbishop: Geoff Smith and all Bishops.
- Special Focus  
Women's Ministry  
Thanks for the pioneering ministries of Deaconesses in our diocese.  
Pray for God to raise up a new generation of pioneers for Ministry in Gippsland Pray for our work as we seek to engage with our communities  
Religious Communities  
Community of the Holy Name, Sr Carol. Sisters of the Church Sr Linda-May.
- We pray for all who are physically or mentally ill and for those who care for them. For those who are lonely, the grieving and for those without faith, hope or love. For all whom we know and those who have asked for our prayers. Ivan, Crystal, Pete, Cassidy, Prec, Bruce, Shane, David, Geoff, Ray, Isobel, Emma, Jacob, Daryl, Jan, Bob, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.

**Confession      Absolution**

**Greeting of Peace.      Offertory Hymn: MP 712 'O soul, are you weary . . .'**

**Holy Communion.      Announcements.**

**Final Hymn: MP 1168 'Everyone needs . . .'**

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## News and Notes

**Last Sunday afternoon** presented a very special opportunity to continue the observation of Mothering Sunday (Laetare Sunday) by visiting our mother church, St Paul's Cathedral, for the opening of the **'Stations of the Cross' art exhibition**.

The exhibition was excellent. The artistry of all 16 creations was spectacular by way of originality, exhibitors' imagination, faith and depth of their passion. Visitors were each given a booklet that comprised descriptive notes about each exhibit written by its creator, and a short biography of each artist or sculptor.

Bishop Richard opened the exhibition and proceeded around the exhibits giving his reflection on each. The connections he made with the artists' depictions and the passion of each Station of the Cross were profound.

Dean Susanna is unique in the way she encourages parishioners to express their spirituality and prayer through their creativity. . . and the warmth of her welcome to visitors. **The exhibition is well worth a visit.**

**Today, Judy Kelly will be delivering our biscuits to the collector's address in Sale.** Thank you to all who very generously baked and supported 'The Easter Biscuit Bake'.

**Next Saturday 13 April at 3pm we will welcome into the family of God's Church through Holy Baptism, Jacob Raymond Perryman. Jacob will be Baptised by Bishop Richard. All are warmly invited to Jacob's Baptismal Service and afterwards to a celebratory afternoon tea in the Parish Hall.**

**Services for next Sunday, Palm Sunday, will include:-** 8am Eucharist at St Mary's and 9.30am Eucharist at Holy Trinity. **Before 11am** we will gather at St Patrick's Church for the **first** of the 3 churches Ecumenical 'Gatherings' and the Palm Sunday 'Ecumenical Walk' between each church. At each church we will hear a reading from Scripture, a short Meditation and Prayer, and sing a song. After many years and to the Glory of God, our Minister Dave, The Dean of St Mary's Cathedral Father Peter Bickley, and the Reverend Barb Strickland of St. Andrews will come together to lead an Ecumenical witness/ worship at Easter. **We encourage all parishioners and friends to attend and urge those who prefer not to walk from church to church to go by car.**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

### 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*
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup>** 3.30pm. Baptism into the Family of God's Holy Church, Jacob Raymond Perryman, by Bishop Richard Treloar.
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday. 8am St Mary's Munro. 9.30am Holy Trinity. 11am Ecumenical procession & prayer commencing at St Patrick's Church.
- 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>** 7.30pm. Maundy Thursday Service at Holy Trinity
- Fri. 19<sup>th</sup>.** 9am. Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup>.** Holy Saturday. 8pm Easter Vigil at the Cathedral.
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** Easter Day 8.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's  
10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity.  
2pm Holy Communion at All Saints.
- Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** Parish Council Meeting. St Mary's Church Anniversary.
- Wed. 24<sup>th</sup>.** Wreath making, 2pm, at the RSL. Bev Harrap
- Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>** ANZAC Day. Dawn and 9am services at Stratford Memorial Park. Bev Harrap to lay the wreath. Dave leading the Lord's Prayer (9am)
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Planning Day: Comm. 10am. Light Lunch Provided.
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup>** Dave Presiding, Jane Preaching. 4.30pm Traditional Service of Evensong. Bard's Birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1564. The Rev'd Nicolai Blaskow.
- Thursdays mainly music, 9.30am. Parish Hall, During School Term*
- Fridays* 9am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity.
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup>** 10am. St Paul's Cathedral, 'Get Out For Good', Official Launch of the Program in Gippsland. Dave attending. Parishioners welcome.
- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>** 6.30pm. St Paul's Movie Night, Sale Cinema 'Top End Wedding' Tickets to be pre-booked prior to the night.
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 7.30pm. Induction of The Rev. Judith Wake, Heyfield. Dave attending.

### ROSTER - 14<sup>th</sup> April, Sixth Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday

**Read: Isaiah 50.4-9a Ps. 31.9-18. Philippians 2.5-11. Luke 22.14-23,56**

**Priest: David. Sunday School: N/A Lit. Assist: Gail. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul.**

**Readers: Vic, Jan. Intercess: Gail. Org: May. Sides: Nola, Julie Ferg.**

**PPT: Denise. Flowers: N/A Morning Tea: Wendy, Jan. Sac: Denise**

**Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035 379.**

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