

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 8 March, 2nd Sunday in Lent

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.

For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should
not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



TESTIFYGOD

Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -

A Service of Holy Communion - 8.30am at St Mary's,

10am Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.

4pm Healing Service at Holy Trinity.

7.30pm World Day of Prayer at St Andrews Church.

All are welcome!!

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 147 'To God be the glory . . .'

Greeting and Call to Worship.

Sentence

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. *John 3.16*

Prayer of Preparation.

Confession.

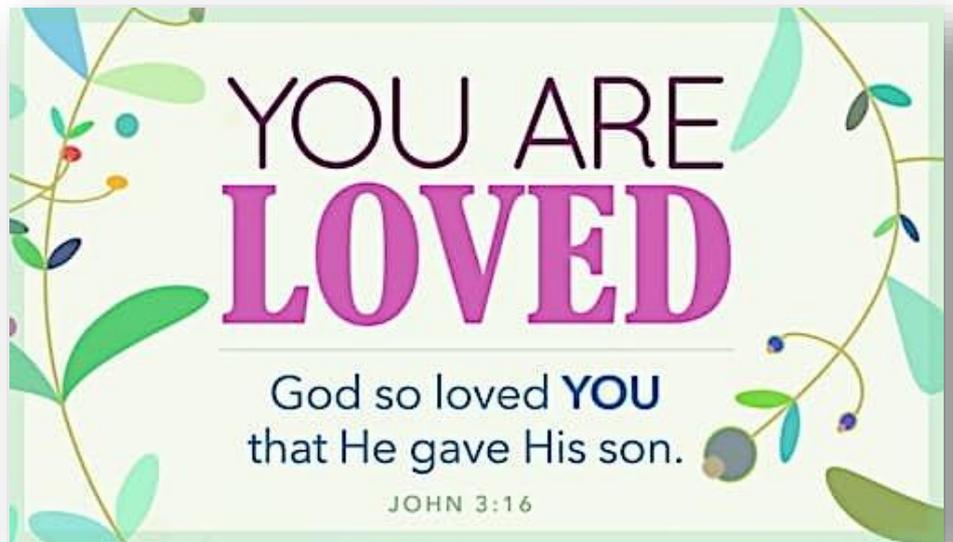
Absolution.

The Trisagion

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy,
you are full of tenderness
and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy,
and always ready to forgive:

grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,
that in every way we may prove to be your loving children;
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

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Albert Einstein said that imagination is more important than knowledge. The readings for this week reiterate to their various audiences that faith is more important than fear. Each of this week's texts is like an echo of the other; they all

tell the story of God's promise to bless the people of God so they may be a blessing to all of creation.

A Reading from Genesis

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. *Genesis 12.1-4a*

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I find help?
² **My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**
³ He will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and he who watches over you will not sleep.
⁴ **Be sure he who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
⁵ The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;
⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.**
⁷ The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is he who will guard your life.
⁸ **The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts

him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. *Romans 4.1-5, 4.13-17*

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Early Talk

Gradual Hymn: MP 67: ‘ Breathe on me . . . ’ (V 1, 2, 4)

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 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. *John 3.1-17*

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

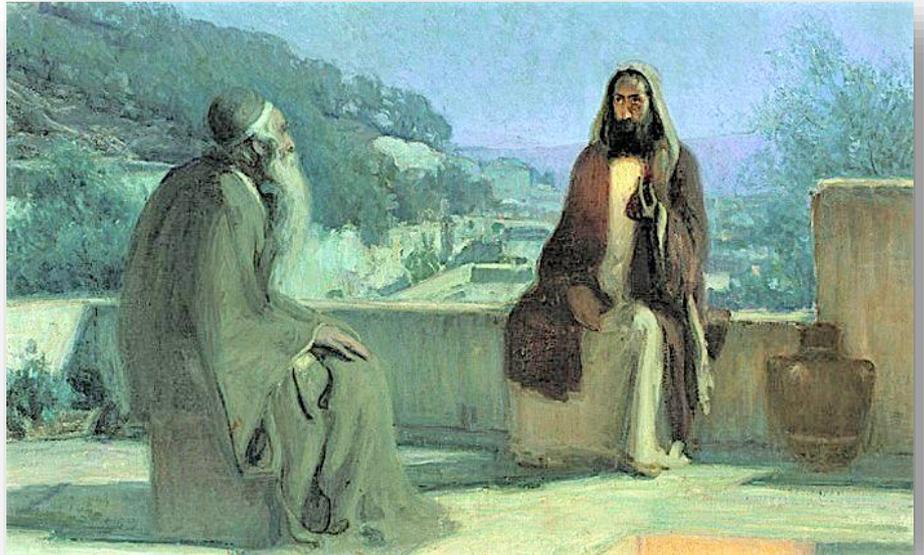
The Prayers of the People.

We pray for:-

- *The poor and hungry people of the world. Those suffering the effects political unrest, persecution, and homelessness. Refugees and Asylum seekers.
- *Greater and more effective management of family violence especially against women and children.
- * Those impacted by the coronavirus in so many ways – world-wide. For healing and control. We pray for the development of an effective vaccine.
- *For all impacted by the devastating bush fires this season. May financial support get through to those who need assistance without bureaucratic delay.
- *For policy-makers in government, business and public life. May they put differences aside and work together to put effective fuel load reduction and sensible climate change measures into action.
- *For our Bishop, Richard, as he leads the ministry of the diocese.
- *Our Minister Dave, giving thanks for his ministry among us. May the Holy Spirit guide us all in our ministry, mission and sharing of Christ in our community.
- *For Emma and their boys. Bless them, keep them well and safe.

For the Parish of Maffra: Janet Wallis, Peter. For the Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Philip Freier, and all Bishops.

*For the coordinators of the op shop: Bev and John; and all who support the op shop. For mainly music coordinators: May and Bev, for children, families and



carers. We pray for growth and continued development of this special ministry to local families.

*We pray for the sick, the lonely, sad and suffering, and all who care for them. We pray especially at this time *for Brenda, Keith, Marion, Phillip, Peter, Ruth, Aileen, Peter T, Mark, Alice, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Bruce, Geoff, Daryl, Jan, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.*
In your goodness and mercy grant them health of body, soundness of mind and peace of heart.

Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: ‘Nicodemus sought out Jesus . . .’

Offertory Prayer.

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion.

Sending out of God’s people.

Announcements.

Final Hymn: MP 880: ‘Power of your love . . .’

Blessing.

Dismissal

Recessional Music

APBA & NRS portions reprinted with permission, Copyright Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd

NEWS AND NOTES

This afternoon at 4pm there will be a Healing Service at Holy Trinity.

All are invited to come to this gentle and meaningful little service.

Also this afternoon - a Slow Art Afternoon from 1.30pm - 3.30pm At Gippsland Art Gallery with Dean Susanna Pain

- A quiet afternoon with art, looking, listening, reflecting, responding, sharing.

This Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm in the rectory will be the commencement of our Lenten Studies for this year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please speak to Dave.

Please don’t forget the Parish Dinner this Friday evening at the Avon Hotel.

We will be running the hotel raffle as well as enjoying the fun and fellowship. Bev will be taking the bookings this time, **so please speak to Bev.**

*****Next Sunday 15 March the Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated at All Saints AND at Holy Trinity.**

St Mary's Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday 22 March.

****The Celtic Celebration 6.30pm Saturday 21 March.**

We're making steady progress. Parishioners please book in. One's and two's are very welcome!!

We are still seeking volunteers for the Family Movie Night.

Only one person per month required so not a huge commitment. Please speak to Dave if you could assist with this ministry – thank you.

The ministry of compiling the Holy Trinity Ministry Roster has been undertaken by Sandra Meredith with Denise initially assisting her.

Would Holy Trinity Parishioners please advise Sandra or Denise of the Sundays that they cannot be available for Roster duties from the 12th April to 21st June (inclusive) ASAP – thank you.

All credits to Sandra for stepping up to this important ministry that requires time, patience, impartiality and sensitivity – thank you Sandra.

A very big 'thank you' to Jane Griffiths who faithfully provided this ministry for several years.

Judy Kelly has received an email from Laura Collins of Prison Fellowship Vic. re participation in the Easter Biscuit Bake. For those who wish to participate in this ministry, Judy will take the biscuits into the collection point – thank you.

The Anam Cara Quiet Day: Art & Faith: Exploring how art can enable and inspire our faith journey. Led by Reverend Canon David Head.

Saturday 14 March, 9.30am – 3.30pm. St Mary's Anglican Church 6/8 Latrobe Rd Morwell. **All are invited to attend.** Bring your lunch, notepad and pen. Tea/coffee and morning tea will be provided. Donations appreciated \$0 to \$1 depending on means. Please RSVP: Jane 0411 316 346 or **jemacqueen@gmail.com** or David at **davidrhead51@gmail.com**

Registrar Richard Connelly writes:-

. . . Please find below a link to an interview between **Bishop Richard and Jude Benton**, priest at Croajingolong. The interview contains her account of having been in Mallacoota throughout the bushfire crisis and some theological reflections regarding “where is God throughout the crisis”.

The video is 12 minutes long . . . **<https://youtu.be/uK2DOSyk2-Q>** . . .

NB: This video is very worth-while viewing.

Denise.

PARISH DIARY & HOLY TRINITY ROSTER

March Lenten Studies commence in the Rectory 7.30pm Wed. 11.

Thursdays 9.30am mainly music. Parish Hall during School Term

Fridays 9am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity.

Retiring Offertory: Eye Care Vanuatu

Wed 11 7.30pm. Lenten Studies at the rectory. All are welcome!

Fri 13 6.30pm Parish Dinner at Stratford - Raffle

Sat 14 Anam Cara Quiet Day at St Mary's Church, Morwell.

Sun 15 Lent 3. Harvest festival at All Saints AND at Holy Trinity

Tues 17 St Patrick's Day

Wed 18 Parish Council Reports due.

Thurs. 19 National Close the Gap Day. Safe Church Ministry Meeting.

Fri. 20 Cultural Diversity Week. *Cultural Diversity Week (CDW) is Victoria's largest multicultural celebration and includes 21 March - the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

Sat. 21 CELTIC Celebration. Harmony Day Australia.

Sun 22 Lent 4. Harvest Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church.

Thurs 26 11am. Family Fun Fair Meeting.

Friday 27 Kid's Movie Night

Sun 29 Lent 5. 10am Combined Church Worship at All Saints.

7.30pm. Ecumenical Service St. Patrick's Church

Mon 30 Dave & Family away for 3-4 days. Returns on Thursday 2nd

April.

Thursdays 9.30am mainly music during school term.

Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity.

School holidays: Saturday 28 March to Monday 13 April. Retiring Offertory: BC

Fri 3 2pm-4.30pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop Bairnsdale.

Sat 4 9.30am-4pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop, Bairnsdale.

Sun 5 Liturgy of The Palms. Lent 6. Daylight saving ended.

8am All Saints, 9.30am Holy Trinity, 11am Ecumenical Procession & Prayer.

Holy Trinity Roster, 15 March. Third Sunday in Lent.

Exodus 17.1-7 Ps. 95. Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Gail, Kerry C. Read: Lillas, Denise.

Intercess: Gail. Org: Vic. Sides: Judy T, Paul. PPT: Tristan

Flowers: N/A MT: Judy K, Nola. Sacristan: Judy T.

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

Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com