

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 17 May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.

NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020
VOLUNTEER
CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES. WEEK

**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -
A Service of Holy Communion
10am Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,
via Zoom, on line, Facebook or ‘phone-in’.**

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: 'A new commandment' – MP 1

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all men know that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all men know that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.

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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.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word, 'Jesus promises,' and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'
(John 14. 23)

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

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Most merciful Father,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. 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

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’ *Acts 17.22-31*

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66 – *We will say the Psalm together*

**7 O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,**

**8 Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.**

**9 For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

**10 You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.**

**11 You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:**

but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

**12 I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:
and I will pay you my vows,**

**13 The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.**

**14 I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.**

**15 Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.**

**16 I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.**

**17 If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.**

**18 But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**

**19 Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.**

Early Talk

The Gospel

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

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees

him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' *John 14.15-21*

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.

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

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 is the true Paschal Lamb
who was offered for us
and has taken away the sin of the world.

And now we give you thanks
that you raised him in triumph from the dead.

By his death, he has destroyed death
and by his rising to life again
has restored us to eternal life.

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, gracious God, we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine,
and pray that we who receive them,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
according to our Saviour's word,
in remembrance of his suffering and death,
may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup
to proclaim the death of the Lord.

We do this until he returns.
Come, Lord Jesus!

**Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection,
may we who share these gifts
be renewed by your Holy Spirit
and united in the body of your Son.
Bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom,
there to feast at your table and
join in your eternal praise:**

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive praise and honour
and glory and power
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered

from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your 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

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

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: 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' – MP 445

1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us –
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your word, Lord,
and let there be light!*

2 Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by Your blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness –
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine...

3 As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display Your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story –
shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine...

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The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight;

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

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. At this uncertain time we feel that it is more important than ever to recognise and acknowledge Australia's volunteers.

Let us take a moment in silence to value the many talents and gifts that You, our God, have given especially to and through our volunteers who dedicate their hours to maintenance and ministry in our parish, our op shop volunteers that help sustain our mission and ministry, and our mainly music volunteers that bring joy and love to local families. For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you, God of all goodness.

We pray too for all volunteers whose giving is on hold, who are deprived of their sense of worth, fulfillment and companionship.

We pray for Your wisdom, help and guidance for:-

- All in the world who are suffering from the Covid 19 infection and for the families and friends of those whose lives are threatened or have died.
- Medical scientists, doctors, nurses, and all paramedical personnel caring for the sick. For the safety of all carers.
- Success in establishing a vaccine against Covid 19 as well as other treatments.
- Our leaders struggling to lessen the severe blow to our economy and that of the world. That economies will 'lift' and unemployment reduce.
- Teachers and support staff throughout the school system. For parents and children struggling with home schooling

- All who are financially insecure. May ways be found to alleviate their plight.
- People suffering depression and anxiety resulting from isolation, unemployment, lack of income.
- The elderly living alone or in care being struggling through loneliness.
- Those battling to recover from the devastation of the summer bush fires.
- Bishop Richard and Registrar Richard as they lead the Diocese through restricted and prescriptive resumption of church services and loss of finance. All parishes trying to navigate their way through these difficulties.
- For the Diocese of Gahini, for a response to Bishop Manessah's plea for prayers and assistance for their parish clergy living without income.
- For Dave as he works to keep parishioners connected in ministry and pastoral care. For his ministry work at the Registry Office.
- For Emma as her time for giving birth nears. Keep her safe Lord. We pray for a safe and uncomplicated delivery of Emma and Dave's infant daughter.
- The Parish of Tambo: Philip Kissock, Ruth
- The Diocese of Murray: Bishop John Ford.
- For the resumption of our mainly music and op shop ministries as soon as possible.
- Our families, friends and fellow parishioners. May the experience of the pandemic spur us to work all the more readily for a new world of justice, love and peace.

***We pray for the sick, the lonely, sad and suffering, and all who care for them.**
 We pray especially at this time *for Marj White, Brenda, Keith, Marion, Phillip, Peter, Ruth, Aileen, Peter T, Mark, Alice, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Bruce, Geoff, Daryl, Jan, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.*

God of all goodness, you have made your love known to us in Jesus and still bless us with the Spirit of truth. Keep us on the way that leads to you. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord.

News and Notes

This coming Sunday we will welcome The Reverend Heather Toms back to the parish. Heather will be leading worship whilst Dave is on paternity leave.
 Jillian Anderson has very kindly agreed come in and lead the singing.

Covid 19 restrictions have been eased a little from the perspective of home visits, out of doors activities and some sports etc. the changes also provide for small worship services in churches and in homes, under certain conditions . . . at this stage, these conditions are very restrictive and prescriptive and so we will continue with worship as usual until early June when Dave returns from paternity leave.

We will continue to be blessed with the option to join in our own church services via Zoom, Facebook or phone.

The layout of the Bulletin has been changed by way of the Bulletin Prayer Points now follow the Blessing. This is to enable continuity of the Order of Service component of the Bulletin.

****Please note: Parish Council Reports are due this Tuesday.**

A Lay Readers meeting, led by the Reverends Jenny and Tony Wicking, convened via Zoom on Monday evening last, featured a sharing of how parishes across the diocese were managing over the weeks of 'no church services' . . . a sharing of the other ways parish leaderships were providing ministry, pastoral care and mission.

All parishes were continuing to provide ministry to their people in a range of ways. One general observation by participants was the degree of regular communication / connection with parishioners via phone calls, emails, and front door visits; acts of kindness and how very pastoral this period of time has been.

It became clear to me that our parish was doing particularly well. Ours was the only parish represented that was /is providing direct streaming of Sunday services accompanied by deliveries of the Bulletin (including the Order of Service) and Reserved Sacrament to parishioners, together with emailing of Dave's sermons and other diocesan resources . . . and emailing of weekly mainly music sessions to families.

A couple of parishes including the Cathedral were/are pre-recording their services which are available on-line.

Direct Zooming via a couple of iPhones is really quite an achievement when one considers there is no opportunity for rehearsing, editing (cut and re-doing) etc. The discussion went on to include how worship and church might look after the pandemic, how ministry is transforming digitally as well as in person, intentional prayer connection and opportunity for evangelism.

As Bishop Richard indicated "Red Alert" stuff.

This week is National Volunteers week, a time to be giving thanks for the volunteers that sustain our parish . . . the parishioner volunteers who care for our church precincts and give ministry in so many different ways including our mainly music and op shop volunteers.. We have so much to thank God for.

Bible Studies will continue this Wednesday 20 at 7.30pm on Zoom - Session 8. Please speak to Dave or Denise if you wish to join.

The proposed Prayer Chain

Could parishioners who feel they would like to join a parish prayer chain please contact Kerrie Smith on 0427 220 650 or 5145 6783.

Bishop Manasseh reaches out to our Diocese.

Bishop Richard writes:-

Our sister Diocese of Gahina, Rwanda, is also facing significant challenges during the pandemic. I have had some correspondence with +Manasseh, who asked me to share the following with you:

Dear Brother Bishop Richard,

Warm greetings from myself, my family and Gahini Diocese in general. We have kept Gippsland in our daily prayers. Here, we are still locked down and most likely another extension will be announced because more cases are now being identified.

We have been struggling, making ends meet in these past weeks but it seems we are heading to a much harder time. As you are aware our Parish Rectors live by the offerings from Christians. It's now close to two months when churches are closed. Here, our Christians only give when they come to church. Worse still, they are also gravely affected by the lockdown as most families survive on their daily earnings. Most Rectors do not work in their home parishes. Even those who have gardens from where they can derive food, it's not possible for them to travel. Life is really hard.

I am writing to you dear Bishop and all our friends in your Diocese asking for prayers for us during this period especially for the survival of our clergy families and any support if possible. I know that you are also struggling especially with the impact of the recent fires but we say in my language that 'a stronger brother uplift a weaker brother'. I am hopeful that this is a time when our link parishes in Gippsland can support their brothers in Gahini. I have asked you this Bishop Richard, trusting that you take us as brothers and that at such a time a person goes out to the one he trusts most. May

the Lord Keep you, your family and all our brethren safe. May the Lord bless you . . . Bishop Manasseh.

Bishop Richard says . . . I'm conscious of the sacrifices that many of you have already made in supporting your own parishes and caring for our sisters and brothers at the local level. If, however, you or your faith community feel that you can contribute in some way – however small – to our friends in Rwanda at this time, the Registry Office will be pleased to collect any offerings and forward them together to +Manasseh in the week before Pentecost. Please 'tag' any offering so that we can direct your gift accordingly and connect with the link parishes.

On a local level, Treasurer Paul is willing to collect any donations 'tagged' for this cause and will take them in to the Registry.

Holy Trinity Church Services

If you or anybody you know may wish to join with us on zoom, please contact Denise: ph. 0417100047 or email: pdvranek@gmail.com

Remember:

**Wherever and whenever possible, Dave will be maintaining contact with parishioners by phone. He is always available to parishioners at any time:-
0401 035 379. Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com**

Your much needed Offertory can be given by:-

1. Collection by Paul Wager. Please ring him on 0457 329 919 to make arrangements
2. Direct payment into the parish CBA account –
 - a. BSB 063526 Acct No 10493155. The account name is 'Anglican Parish of Avon' Please register it as 'offertory'
3. Leave your weekly giving envelope in Paul Wagers mailbox from where it will be stored securely until it is banked on the first business day.
4. Where there is an account (cost to the parish), some may wish to cover that expense which is another way of giving.

Please note: -

The site and ID for zoom - or phone number and ID are the same for Sunday Services, Bible Studies and Parish Council meetings.

***Join Zoom Meeting OR Church Service**

<https://zoom.us/j/9748706191> Meeting ID: 974 870 6191

***Join by Phone: (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID: 974 870 6191**

PARISH DIARY & HOLY TRINITY ROSTER

MAY

Retiring Offertory: Leprosy Foundation (On hold)

Mon 18 –

Sunday 24 National Volunteers Week
Volunteers Week.

Tues 19

Family Fun Fair Planning Meeting. **Postponed**

Thurs 21

World Day of Cultural Diversity.

Fri 22

Kid's Movie Night **Postponed**

Sat 23

Family Fun Fair **Postponed**

Sun 24

Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Tues 26

National Sorry Day

27 May to 3 June The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) *The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) are held each year between 27 May and 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision.*

Tues 26

Parish Council Meets

Wed 27

Reconciliation Day. Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

27-3 June

National Reconciliation Week

Thurs 28

11am Family Fun Fair Debrief Meeting **Postponed**

Ascension Day

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

Sun 31

Day of Pentecost

10am Combined Church Centres Worship at St Mary's. ???

7.30pm Ecumenical Service: Uniting Church. ???

Holy Trinity Roster, 24 May, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.6-14. Ps.68.1-10,32-35 1 Peter 5. John 17.1-11

Priest: Heather. Lit Assist: Vic Intercess: Vic. Org: Vic. Cameras: Denise

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