

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 29 August, Pentecost 14

Social Justice Sunday

Day of Prayer for Refugees

Welcome to worship at Holy Trinity

10am on Zoom



**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
Protect the rights of all who are helpless".**

Proverbs 31:8

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: 'God gives us a future' - TiS 687

1 God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.

2 We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
and the strength we lack.

3 Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and
find our future there.

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.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.

Lord, let us be people of generosity and abundantly giving to others.

Let us be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.

Lord, prepare us to be peaceful people.

Let us keep our hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.

Lord, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace.

The Sentence

'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

(James 1. 17)

Opening prayer

Let us pray,

**Lord of mercy and abundant love,
we have gathered this day to hear your healing words of
compassion and to be transformed by your love.**

**Help us to become more faithful servants
in our thoughts, words, and deeds.**

It is in Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

The Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence for self-reflection

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**O Lord our God,
you know us better than we know ourselves.
As we come before you now,
believers and doubters alike,
we all share a deep need,
for we are all lost without your grace.
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,
test us and know our troubled thoughts.
Give us true repentance.
Forgive us all our wrongs.
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,
to learn to serve each other
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to come at last to heaven. 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

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,

increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

The Song of Songs

⁸ The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

¹¹ for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away. *Song of Songs 2.8-13*

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

The Second Reading

A Reading from the Book of James,

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1.17-27

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

Early Talk

The Gospel

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

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him,
² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.
³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders;
⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots,

and bronze kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’

⁶ He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

¹⁷ When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable.

¹⁸ He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile,

¹⁹ since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’
(Thus he declared all foods clean.)

²⁰ And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles.

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come:
fornication, theft, murder,

²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride,
folly.

²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

Mark 7.1-8, 7.14-23

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Time of discussion

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith of the church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, 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

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: ‘Lord of creation’ – TiS 626

1 Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

2 Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

3 Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind;
enrich it with truths that express your design.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.

4 Lord of all being, I give you my all,
for if I disown you, I stumble and fall;
but sworn in glad service your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom the rest of the way.

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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.

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful,

holy and strong.
You made us
and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,

**and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.**

**Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.**

**For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, 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.

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

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,

and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in 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: ‘Forever’ – MP 1046

1 Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King:
His love endures for ever.
For He is good, he is above all things:
His love endures for ever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

2 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm:
His love endures for ever.
For the life that’s been reborn:
His love endures for ever.
Sing praise, sing praise,
sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus:

Forever God is faithful,
forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
forever, for ever.

3 From the rising to the setting sun:
His love endures for ever.
By the grace of God we will carry on:
His love endures for ever.
Sing praise, sing praise,
sing praise, sing praise.
For ever God is faithful...

The Blessing

As Christ has fed and redeemed your life, now go into the world in peace and love offering ministries of hope and justice.

Go forth in joy to serve with love and be doers of God's word, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

Day of Prayer for Refugees

God of the nomad, asylum seeker and refugee

Journey with those who have left all

To find safety on ours and other's shores

Accused of lying, hungry and homeless

Vulnerable, away from families and the familiar.

God of the stranger be with them we pray

And help us to open our arms and our hearts

To those who seek sanctuary from afar

Following the one who left all for us

Amen

(Based on a prayer from Rev'd Pat Nimmo)

We pray:

*Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of your world, for the beautiful season of Spring. Help our leaders and ourselves to be good stewards of our environment.

*Loving God we pray for the people of our world who are less fortunate than we are.

*For peace in all those parts of the world torn apart by war and terrorism.

*We unite with Christians around the world and pray for the people of Afghanistan engulfed in humanitarian crisis.

*We pray for fellow Christians and for those who supported the Allied forces during the past 20 years. For the terrible fears being faced by women and girls with the return of the Taliban to power.

*Our prayer is for protection and peace . . . for those who are without food and shelter and as they try to leave in fear of the future, may they find safe havens of peace and care.

*We pray for the global response to this crisis, that governments will be open and courageous and welcoming of people fleeing their homeland.

*Lord, even when it doesn't make sense to our earthly selves, you call us to pray for those who persecute ([Matthew 5:44](#)). We lift the Taliban to you today. We pray that your Holy Spirit would work your wonders in them and soften their hearts that they will recognise and be caring of the rights of all.

*For our servicemen and women who served in Afghanistan. May our people recognise and understand that their service was not wasted. Terrorism was stemmed, women and girls were given some rights and education, infrastructure was built. Lord may all this progress be continued.

*For countries whose populations are being ravaged by the Covid-19 virus, where the virus is out of control and treatments inadequate. For our own country, may current lockdowns succeed and life return to Covid normal. For those who have lost their businesses and income, for others who are struggling to keep their business afloat. May our lives return to being 'normal' in the ways that we were privileged to enjoy. May there be relief for those whose 'normal' was poverty and homelessness.

*For our Diocese, our Parish, and the churches in our local community. For Bishop Richard and his family and for our priest Dave and his family.

For Dave's ministry in our parish and the Diocese. For our ministries and support of Dave.

Guide us in our ministries as we live each day determined to give care and support to those who are in need.

*We pray for your blessings upon all who are preparing for Baptism, for parents and Godparents.

*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 on Thursday mornings. We pray for the success of our mainly music program

*For our Retiring Offertory: CMS

*Healing God friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has healed so many in body, mind, and spirit. We hold before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We raise them before you: -

Julie, Paul, Kate, Ron, Cliff, Nathan, Val, Marion, Bev, Brenda, Liliias, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.

Holy God, deepen our loving so that as daily we pray through this coming week, we may do it with love and sincerity in sure and certain knowledge of your abiding presence.

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning friends,

After the 10am service streamed from Holy Trinity today, at 11.30am, we will gather on Zoom for a time of 'happy chatter and fellowship', do join in, we'd love to see you there!

This Tuesday Parish Council will meet on Zoom at 7.30pm.

Next Sunday 5 September, being the first Sunday in September, we will celebrate Father's Day and All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity, either on Zoom or in person, depending on the outcome of decisions made by the State Government on 2 September.

In preparation for the MAF Fuel for Father's Day mission, we should have a prepared a display in the hall for people to give donations for Jerry Cans to give fathers on Father's Day.

Due to the virtual impossibility of doing this during lockdown, please feel encouraged to go online at:-

[2021 Father's Day - Full Jerrycan of Fuel – MAF Gifts](#)

In this time of ever-increasing challenge, sadly, only those persons with permits to enter the church for the purpose of streaming worship may do so. As Dave announced on Sunday, it is a requirement that it be the same 4 people each week.

As a result of this latest restriction, the ministries of sacristan, flowers and cleaning are 'on hold', as are all other ministries on our roster. We will resume all ministries just as soon as we are permitted. Each and every person's ministry in God's church is indeed very special and equally important.

All activities in our church buildings are 'on hold' until further notice.

Go in Peace!

Denise

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

SEPTEMBER

Thursdays. mainly music, 9.30am in the Parish Hall during School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers in Holy Trinity.

Term 3 (Spring) Holidays 18 September to 3 October

****Dave on leave from 20th-27th September**

Retiring Offertory: Mission to Sea Farers

Thurs 2 Holy Trinity Anniversary. Licensed 2/9/1868

Sun 5 Fifteenth Sunday in Pentecost.

All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity, Father's Day.

National Child Protection Week 6-12 September

Fri 10-Sun 12 Gathering Younger Gippsland Anglicans: Dave attending

Sun 12 Sixteenth Sunday in Pentecost.

Thurs 16 11am Parish Diary Planning Meeting

Fri 17 Spring Parish Dinner, Stratford Hotel – Raffle

Sat 18 Men's Breakfast.

Sun19 Seventeenth Sunday in Pentecost.

Vocations Sunday. Child Protection Sunday

Tues 21 Parish Council Reports Due

Fri 24 Family Movie Night

Sat 25 Women's Craft and Fellowship Day

Sun 26 Eighteenth Day in Pentecost.

Tues 28 Parish Council Meeting

OCTOBER

Thursdays mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall during School Term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

School resumes 3 October Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace

Sun 3 October Nineteenth Day in Pentecost. Feast of St Francis of Assisi

10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

Blessing of the Animals

DAY LIGHT SAVING BEGINS

Sunday 5 September Pentecost 15.

Proverbs 22.1-2,8-9,22-23. Ps.125 James 2.1-10(11-13)14-17 Mark 7.24-37

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

Intercess: Vic. Org: May. Sides: Wendy, Jillian

Camera: Paul, PPT. Denise: Flowers: Nola

MT. Bev T, Nola. Sac: Denise

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