

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 15 May
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to worship at:
8.30am All Saints Church Briagolong
10am Holy Trinity Church Stratford

Love One Another

By this all men will know that you are My disciples

if you have love for one another.

John 13:35
יוחן י"ג כ"ה



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: 'Filled with the Spirit's power' – TiS 411

1 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
the infant church confessed its risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
no less your power of fellowship display.

2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for all.

3 Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
in your strong care all those of every race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

*Words by John Raphael Peacey, 1896-1971
Composed by Walter Greator, 1877-1949
Tune: Woodlands*

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!

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

As the sun rises in the morning,
let all creation worship God.

From the highest mountains to the deepest seas,
let all creation proclaim the name of the Lord, for God alone is worthy to be praised.

God alone makes all things new.
All praise, glory, and honour be yours, forever.

The Sentence

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”

(1 John 4. 16b)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

**Gracious and loving God,
you meet us where we are.
We gather together from many walks of life,
but we are unified as one heart in the body of Christ.
In our time of worship,
open our ears to hear your voice;
open our eyes to see your glory;
open our minds to receive your word;
open our hearts to perceive your presence. 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.

Eternal God,

it's so easy to get lost in the noise and busyness of life.

Forgive our sins and the times we lose focus and forget the praise we owe you, offering it to the world instead.

You alone are worthy of our praise.

You alone are worthy of our adoration.

You alone are worthy of our love.

**Loving Creator who makes all things new,
renew our hearts and strengthen our resolve,
that we may graciously receive what you have in store for us today.**

Amen.

The Absolution

God who has called us is faithful,
and will not remember our sins.

Our sins are forgiven,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us live by the Spirit's transforming power,
and forgive as we have been forgiven. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

We behold your glory, O God,
in the love shown by your Son,
lifted up on the cross and exalted on high:
be glorified anew in the love we have for one another
as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” ⁸ But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

ACTS 11.1-18

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:
O praise him in the heights.

**2 Praise him, all his angels:
O praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon:
praise him, all you stars of light.

**4 Praise him, you highest heaven:
and you waters that are above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for he commanded and they were made.

**6 He established them for ever and ever:
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**

7 O praise the Lord from the earth:
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**8 Fire and hail, mist and snow:
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**

9 Mountains and all hills:
fruit trees and all cedars;

**10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:
creeping things and winged birds;**

11 Kings of the earth, and all peoples:
princes, and all rulers of the world;

**12 Young men and maidens:
old folk and children together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for his name alone is exalted.

**14 His glory is above earth and heaven:
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**

15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

The Second Reading

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. *Revelation 21.1-6*

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' *John 13.31-35*

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Time of discussion

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:

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

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 Hymn: ‘Build your kingdom here’ – MP 1265

1 Come, set Your rule and reign
in our hearts again,
increase in us, we pray,
unveil why we’re made.
Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope

like wildfire in our very souls.
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.
We are Your church,
we need Your power in us.

2 We seek Your kingdom first,
we hunger and we thirst,
refuse to waste our lives,
for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captive hearts released,
the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace;
we lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are Your church,
we pray: 'Revive this earth'.

Refrain:
Build Your kingdom here,
let the darkness fear;
show Your mighty hand,
heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire,
win this nation back;
change the atmosphere,
build Your kingdom here, we pray.

3 Unleash Your kingdom's power,
reaching the near and far,
no force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this,
awake the kingdom seed in us,
fill us with the strength and love of Christ,
we are Your church,
we are the hope on earth.

Build Your kingdom here... Words and music by the Rend Collective Experiment © Rend
Collective Experiment

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.**

**Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.**

**Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
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

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.

**Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Announcements

Final Hymn: 'Jesus put this song' – TiS 670

1 Jesus put this song into our hearts,
Jesus put this song into our hearts;
it's a song of joy no-one can take away.
Jesus put this song into our hearts.

2 Jesus taught us how to live in harmony,
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony;
different faces, different races, He made us one –
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

3 Jesus taught us how to be a family,
Jesus taught us how to be a family;
loving one another with the love that He gives –
Jesus taught us how to be a family.

4 Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy –
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance.

5 Jesus put this song into our hearts,
Jesus put this song into our hearts;
it's a song of joy no-one can take away.
Jesus put this song into our hearts.

Words by Graham Kendrick

Music arranged by David Peacock © 1986 Thankyou Music

The Blessing and Dismissal

Go now with the love of God, the grace of the Risen Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Go to share your faith and your lives.
Go to proclaim the good news of Easter,
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. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS

Faithful God, your son Jesus said “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” In our worship today, we testify to God’s love shown perfectly in Christ and we re-commit ourselves to love one another as a community of faith.

We pray:-

- *For care of the environment and world-wide conscientious efforts to control climate change.
- *For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven and new beginnings for refugees.
- * For the people of Ukraine suffering intolerable cruelty as their country is invaded and destroyed by a brutal invader.
- * For the people of Russia, unable to demonstrate their disapproval of the invasion and suffering effects of harsh economic sanctions and death of family members.
- *For an end to the racial, social, and domestic violence and social injustices around the world and in our own country.
- *For the forth coming elections. That the outcome will be the most just and trustworthy government for all people.
- *May people from all nations, poor and rich, be able to defeat the threat of the Covid-19 virus and its variants.
- *Faithful God, we think of your church today celebrating all over the world, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, of Christ’s resurrection. Language race and nationalities may be different but our worship and joy on the Day of Resurrection make us one in the Gospel. We pray that The Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen us in mission and service praying that day by day we may grow in love for you and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- *We pray for our Diocese, and the churches in our local community.
- *For Bishop Richard and his family as, he leads the faith-life of the Diocese.
- *For Bishop Richard and Registrar Richard attending General Synod at this time.**
- *For Dave as he leads the ministry, discipleship and pastoral caring in our parish and community. For all ministry teams to support Dave in a most spiritually constructive way.
- *For Emma and their 4 children.
- *For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all

who support our ministry and mission.

*For the mainly music team, and for the families who gather here each Thursday morning. May this ministry to families grow.

*For our Retiring Offertory in support of the people of BCA

We raise before you, those who need healing in their lives, physical and mental, and give you thanks where healing has taken place.

We pray especially for Kim, Deb, Timothy, Julie, Paul, Gail, Ivan, Joy, Ron, Cliff, Nathan, Marion, Bev, Liliias, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Jan.

We pray for those bereaved by the loss of a loved one, thinking of the family and friends of Anne and specially of Jillian and Marion her loving nieces. May they find comfort in your love, peace, and reassurance. May Anne rest in peace and rise in glory when the day comes.

Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's
true King. (*James Quinn "Hymns Old and New", 142.*) **Amen**

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning and welcome,

Tomorrow till 22 May is National Volunteer Week.

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and will be held on 16 – 22 May 2022.

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2022 is '**Better Together**'.

Volunteering brings people together; builds communities and creates a better society for everyone. We are, **Better Together**.

The wind beneath the wings of our church family in Avon is first and foremost God's Holy Spirit, and an integral part is Priest Dave and our volunteers.

Volunteers include: -

- The ministry rosters including maintenance teams (mowing, working bees etc)

- Catering teams
- Op Shop volunteers which also include our precious community members
- Mainly music volunteers
- Family Fun Fair volunteers including those from our parish, the Op Shop, Men's Shed, and friends of the parish.

National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you.

A luncheon for our op shop volunteers will be held in June.



****Parish Council Reports are due this Tuesday please.**

Forthcoming events

Saturday 21st May: Men's Breakfast

1 The Autumn Parish Dinner: Friday 27 May at the Greyhounds, Sale.

2 The National Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June. The National Reconciliation Week 2022 theme for this year is, "Be Brave. Make Change." a challenge to all Australians— individuals, families, communities, organisations and government—to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

3 Saturday 28 Avon Parish Women's Fellowship and Craft Day

4 The Trivia night 4 June

As previously mentioned, our retiring offertory for this month is in support of **The Bush Church Aid Society**, a Christian ministry that provides religious education, flying padres and counselling, welfare and medical services across outback Australia.

This is indeed timely as BCA is critically involved in reconciliation, The National Reconciliation Week is celebrated at the end of this month, 27 May to 3 June.



An Explanation of the RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) - Why a RAP?

From the start of BCA's work its Field Staff have come in contact with First Nations Peoples (FNP) in various ways, through its medical work, its ministry in small towns throughout rural and remote Australia and visits to cattle stations.

They have encountered FNP where they work and live. This work has occurred and is occurring in the eras of the clash of cultures, protectionism, assimilation, self-determination, activism and now the era of recognition and treaty making.

BCA people have struggled with the difficulties that First Nations Peoples have experienced and sought to assist where they can, often when it was not popular to stand up for Indigenous people. However, it has been non-Indigenous people ministering to First Nations Peoples.

This has now changed and today one of BCA's six priorities is to work in Partnership with First Nations Peoples to support their ministry to their own people and to all Australians.

When Paul writes to the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:17-18) he reminds them of the change that God has made in the lives of all God's people

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation' and in Galatians 3:28 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ' (NIV)

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

MAY

Thursdays *mainly music, 9.30am. Parish Hall, During School Term*

Fridays *9.30am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity.*

Mondays *7.30pm Bible Studies*

General Synod Retiring Offertory: BCA

Mon 16-Sun 22 National Volunteers Week

Tues 17 Parish Council Reports Due

Sat 21 **Men's Breakfast** World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

Sun 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Tues 24 Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 26 National Sorry Day. Ascension Day. ***In Australia, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated between Ascension and the Day of Pentecost.*

27 May to 3 June *The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is 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.*

Fri 27 Parish Dinner at Greyhounds Sale.

Commencement of National Reconciliation Week

Sat 28 Avon Parish Women's Fellowship and Craft Day.

Sun 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Combined Avon Parish Worship

Ecumenical Service at St Andrews Church.

Sunday 22 May. Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.9-15. Ps 67. Rev.21.10-14, 22-22.5. John 14.23-29 or John 5.1-9

Priest: Dave. Lit. Assist: Vic. 1st Read: Kerrie S. 2nd Wendy

Intercess: Vic: Org May. Sides: Kerrie C. Nola

Camera: David S PPT. Judy K: Flowers: Wendy. MT. Wendy Bev T. Sac: Bev H

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