



Beaumaris Anglican Parish

St Michael & All Angels Church

Sunday
24th May
2020

Seventh
Sunday
of Easter

making
connections
for life with
God and
with each
other



'Go and make
disciples of all
nations,' Jesus
commands; 'I am
with you always, to
the close of the age.'
Matthew 28.19–20

Prayer of the Day

God of majesty,
you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life,
and took him up into the glory of heaven:
clothe us with the power promised from on high,
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance
and witnesses of Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who lives with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.



Rev. Rob McUtchen

Dear Friends

Another week and no word of permission to prepare to resume services. Impatient? - just a little bit!

Parish Council met last week and, among other things, considered what will need to happen when we are able to resume services and use of the church property. One thing for sure - it will be unlike anything we have been accustomed to. The incomplete picture we do have tells us there will need to be scrupulous cleaning of the interior of the church - pews and all contact surfaces before and after each service. The halls will have to be treated similarly, and this will raise the issue, where we have multiple clients over a week, of arranging cleaning after each client. Please pray for Parish Council as its members develop a workable plan for complying and, most of all, for keeping every one safe.

Do keep intentionally praying for one another during our enforced isolations.

Grace and peace,
Robert

Thank You

We've received a lovely note from Jennifer & George Robinson thanking us for the flowers and assuring us that they are loving Palm Cove.

And thanks from St Augustine's Op Shop to all from St Michael's who have been, or who are currently, on the volunteer roster. Not only was it National Volunteer Week last week, but it was the 60th anniversary of the Op Shop's opening on Wednesday! First item sold: a skirt, 6s. First day's sales? An astonishing £900.



Confirmation

To those who are yet to be confirmed!

Have you ever wondered exactly what your doting parents and godparents promised "on your behalf" when you were baptised as a babe in arms? In a confirmation class we think about those promises in depth. We examine just why Jesus of Nazareth is at the very centre of our faith, and what that means for you personally in your daily life.

So if you want to learn more about what being a Christian is really about, this is for you. Open to all – baptised, not yet confirmed, baptised and confirmed but due for a refresher, or not yet baptised and just "wondering" - here is an opportunity.



A study group will commence in June. Bishop Paul Barker will visit St Michael's on Sunday October 4 (subject to a return to normality!) and will conduct a confirmation during the service. One person has already expressed interest and Robert would welcome further inquiries about confirmation, baptism, or simply learning more about Jesus. Call 0423 192603.

Alpha Online

Two years ago we ran an Alpha course where people gathered together. Alpha now offers an online course which, in these Covid-19 limitations, is most welcome. It allows people to view and discuss each episode from home, and then join in an online group discussion afterwards. Almost as good as being there! Robert plans to base our confirmation course around the Alpha sessions.

Time requirement? About one hour one evening per week at a mutually convenient time. Call Robert 0423 192 603.

Prayer Points

- For every corner of the world in its response to the pandemic, that each decision may be for the good of all.
- For honesty, integrity and measured responses in international relationships.
- For children going back to school this week who are facing a different kind of normal.
- For the Carella Choir and the "Exercise Ladies" who usually meet in our hall.

MU Matters

From Longbeach Anglican Church: Thank you for your prayers as we have been busy packing 125 hampers to impact at least 426 people. The items you have provided have been much appreciated. WE STILL NEED knee rugs, dark coloured hats and short scarf sets for 5 - 10yr old boys, short scarves for 5 - 10yr old girls, dark hats and short scarves for men. Knit or crochet squares for these items or donate wool or yarn. Christina Engel 0400 896 008; Drop off: St Chad's Chelsea, Tues. Thurs. or Fri after 3pm.

From Margaret Goode: Special thanks to Wendy, Jennifer and Julie, our clever people who have already contributed. We can keep making squares for knee rugs so let's see what we can achieve. Also grateful thanks for the donations to Mary Sumner House Appeal. Personal donations from St Michael's totalled \$380 and our branch gave \$50.

TMA



The excellent church newspaper The Melbourne

Anglican (TMA) is not being published on paper during the virus, but it continues to be available for you online.

<http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma>

Bible Study

The next in Mentone Anglican's weekly Bible studies is contained in this pew sheet. This week is Part 4: Encountering Forgiveness.

Missional Opportunities



Winter Warmers: St Michael's MU has contributed rugs to Longbeach Parish's Winter Warmer project. They gave 128 hampers to 471 recipients at primary schools in Seaford, Carrum, Chelsea and Edithvale. They still need beanies for children and men, plus knee rugs. This may be a project for you on these cooler days.



Beaumaris Anglican Parish

St Michael & All Angels Church

Minister	Rev. Robert McUtchen, 0423 192 603	Donations Thanks for supporting our children's or church ministries: BSB 633-000 Acct. 139-566-459 Please add your name to the deposit description.
Office	Libby Paddle, 9589 3094 Thursdays, 9am – 2pm	
Wardens	Julie-Ann Naughton, 0423 278 222 Rob Tueno, 9589 1384	
Website Email Us	beaumarisanglican.net beaumarisanglican@westnet.com.au	

Reflection for the Seventh Sunday of Easter



Rev. Rob McUtchen

Acts 1.6-14

The Greek fable of Pandora's box ends with an empty box in which one tiny thing remains - hope - although this word could be translated as "deceptive expectation". We live with hopes – some realistic, some beyond dreaming. Sometimes it is easier to keep hoping than to accept reality.

Jews of Jesus' time longed to see the fulfilment of biblical prophecy that Israel would be free (of the Romans) and the kingdom restored. Conflated with hope for the kingdom was the unsaid, but real hope of personal power and authority of "running their own show". Some of Jesus teaching was interpreted as referring to this. In the days following Jesus' resurrection there are two instances where Jesus' disciples give voice to unfulfilled hopes.

When Jesus joins two downcast followers on the Emmaus Road, they describe a shattered hope – "that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free" (Luke 24: 21). Secondly, moments before the Ascension they ask Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"(Acts 1:6). Hope does not always give up – after the disappointment of the crucifixion they are at it again, looking for the moment when Israel will be free. This is so true of human nature.

The repeated hope for a new Kingdom of Israel betrays the disciples' inability to comprehend Jesus' teaching. A case of hope and keep hoping, even when hope is inconsistent with reality. Jesus replies, telling them the "when" is not for them to know. He follows this not with a gift of earthly power or an earthly kingdom of Israel, but a commission and a new job – to be his witnesses, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Luke, the author of Acts, through this story tells that while Jesus has ascended to the Father, the work of disciples is being witnesses on earth. The Kingdom, for which they hoped (erroneously), and of which Jesus spoke, was actually an earthly paradigm in which the will and the ways of God would prevail over the whole human condition of life. The two men in white robes rebuked the disciples as they looked heavenwards: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?" The work of witnessing to Jesus would be

sustained by community, fellowship and unceasing prayer, to which the disciples returned after leaving the mountain.

Had we been with the disciples that day, would we have been looking anywhere else but to heaven as Jesus ascended into the cloud? Somehow I doubt it. But being witnesses to Jesus, his death and resurrection, are tasks we have received from Jesus. It means witnessing to a new world order of justice and grace, which many church agencies such as Anglicare, Anglican Board of Missions and Christian organisations beyond our church do so well. It means maintaining an informed critique of actions of all governments and being ready to speak, or use whatever influence is open to us, to bring light and question to bear on actions which are an impediment to the Kingdom of God.

Witnessing for Jesus is a way of bringing hope to situations crying out for resurrection and new beginning. Hope has been described as “deceptive expectation”. When we are armed with the power of the Holy Spirit, the hope we bear as Christians is much more than that. Amen.

Readings for This Sunday, 24th May, 2020

The First Reading: Acts 1.6-14 (NRSV)

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’ ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35 (NRSV)

¹ God shall arise, and his enemies shall be scattered:
those that hate him shall flee before his face.

² As smoke is dispersed, so shall they be dispersed:
as wax melts before a fire,
so shall the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³ But the righteous shall be glad and exult before God:
they shall rejoice with gladness.

⁴ O sing to God, sing praises to his name:
glorify him that rode through the deserts,
him whose name is the Lord, and exult before him.

⁵ He is the father of the fatherless,
he upholds the cause of the widow:
God in his holy dwelling place.

⁶ He gives the desolate a home to dwell in,
and brings the prisoners out into prosperity:
but rebels must dwell in a barren land.

- ⁷ O God, when you went out before your people:
 when you marched through the wilderness,
- ⁸ The earth shook, the heavens poured down water:
 before the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.
- ⁹ You showered down a generous rain, O God:
 you prepared the land of your possession
 when it was weary.
- ¹⁰ And there your people settled:
 in the place that your goodness, O God,
 had made ready for the poor.
- ³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth:
 O sing praises to the Lord,
- ³³ To him that rides upon the highest heavens,
 that were from the beginning:
 who utters his voice, which is a mighty voice.
- ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel:
 and his might is in the clouds.
- ³⁵ Terrible is God who comes from his holy place:
 the God of Israel who gives power
 and strength to his people. Blessed be God.

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 5 (NRSV)

¹ Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ² to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³ Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are

undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. ¹² Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you, and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The Gospel Reading: John 17.1-11 (NRSV)

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Next Week's Readings, Sunday 31st May, 2020; Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21	Psalm 104.26-36
1 Corinthians 12.1-13	John 20.19-23