

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL



"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

Fifth Sunday in Lent –29th March 2020

***A Year to challenge violence, injustice & oppression, and work for peace
and reconciliation***

Welcome to St Paul's Church in this time! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer from where ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact details are on the last page.



Dear people of St Paul's,

In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can affirm and encourage each other in prayer. We can also join in worship at our regular times using this form of prayer which is built from our usual Sunday service and includes a time of spiritual communion.

You can use it on your own or with others around you. You may use all of it or a part of it as suits you. If you have some lovely recorded music which feeds your faith, then add that to the mix also.

Further, I suggest you create a prayer space, in it you could have a candle, a cross and /or a picture, none of these are essential, but may be a help for prayer.

Finally, I pray that this difficult season may be one which, despite hardship, enriches and strengthens your faith.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

In the name of God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE:

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.' John 11: 25-26

PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

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 Penitential Rite

The Kyrie:

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy!

The Prayer of General Confession:

We pause to reflect on our lives

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: *(pause for silent prayer)*

Lifegiving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breath upon us with the power of your Spirit that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

PSALM 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 8: 6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL John 11: [1-16] 17-45

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived [in Bethany], he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him

Reflection by Sr Elisa

Living in Exile.

Exile is a deep biblical theme.

It means being separated from familiar things in life.

Jacob was in exile when he left the promised land, running away from a furious Esau, after he stole Esau’s birthright. Then seeking a wife in Haran, ended up there for 14 years until he could marry the love of his life, Rebekah. [Gen. 27-33]

The Hebrew people went to Egypt as refugees from a famine and remained there and eventually ended up as slaves to the Egyptians. Then after escaping Egypt they wandered for 40 years in the wilderness. During their time in the wilderness, God gave them the Law, the Ark of the Covenant and made a new covenant with his people. All of this was a kind of Exile. [Gen 41-Exodus 21]

The Jews were in Exile in Babylon, separated from Jerusalem and the temple and the Promised Land.

In the OT reading this week, Jeremiah prophesied over the dry bones during the Babylonian Exile, a promise of hope to a people in despair. We are also experiencing a kind of Exile right now. We are in our homes but restricted from visiting friends and familiar places. Unable to go to church and connect on that level with our faith and our faith community. The deepest form of Exile is death. Where we are separated from life and those we love. This causes great suffering for many.

Jesus when he heard of Lazarus' death from his sisters, and saw their faith and distress, cried. He was grieving for the human condition in which death is a certainty. He was grieving with his friends for their brother and he was grieving for his own life which would be surrendered into the hands of people who were afraid of the kind of grace he was offering.

Jeremiah prophesied over the dry bones [totally dead] and God in the prophecy gradually restored them to life. He placed sinews and flesh over the bones and then filled them with his own Spirit restoring them to life. Thus, all the people were recreated. Out of the death of Exile, God renews his people.

Lazarus too, was truly dead! As the old King James Version put it, after 4 days 'he stinketh', and yet, Jesus, who claims to be the 'Resurrection and the Life' called him from the grave.

Some truths we can learn from all of this:

The great lesson of Exile is that it is an opportunity to be renewed and deepened in our faith. When we cannot gather as a community to pray in the ways we are used to praying, in faith, we turn our hearts to our Lord

and discover that he is with us, holding us in his love and in some way, shape and form recreating us and raising us up.

We look forward to the day when we can arise from our tombs in joy. Filled with the Holy Spirit and serving him again in both old and new ways.

Norman Habel, an Australian poet, wrote a poem entitled 'that Larrikin Lazarus'. Pro Hart did a painting with an Aussie view to accompany the poem; there Lazarus is coming out of the tomb with the bandages dripping off him carrying a pair of dusty boots, arms in the air in joyous freedom and life.

The Jews when they were released from Exile returned to Jerusalem with visions of rebuilding their lives and recommitting themselves to the covenant of Israel with God. The truth was, that they were a changed people, they had come to know God outside of the Promised Land and away from the temple. The temple here, being the house of God. The place where God dwelt in their midst.

This does not mean that the temple had lost its meaning, but they had found the temple within. Thus, synagogues emerged as places of learning and worship away from Jerusalem and the temple.

During the time in Exile and immediately following, the Hebrew Scriptures and the Psalms were gathered and drawn together in a way which would feed and support the faith of the people.

Christians during the early days experienced much life and a lot of persecution, so letters were written and the stories of Jesus' life and the early church were written so that people in Exile could learn about the faith and continue to grow and deepen despite their struggles.

Christianity is a communal faith, 'love one another as I have loved you', but each one of us lives it more deeply when we have our own personal relationship with God. Exile takes us to that place so that when we arise again- and we will, despite Covid19 and everything else which pushes against faith in our culture, the community of God's people will be recreated and renewed.

Thus, in a time like this, I encourage each of you to endeavour to use the time wisely. Take some time for extra prayer, read and study the Scripture and allow God to speak into your hearts, love one another as you are able to, and may God bless you and be with you always. Amen.

Let us pray

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning
more than those who watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem. Psalm 130

The Creed may be said

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly
human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the world and the Church...

*We pray for our world in this time of crisis with the corona virus.
Loving God, we commend to you, all leaders of Governments, all security
personnel, all doctors and nurses, all scientists and researchers, everyone
who is working for the safety and wellbeing of your people. Give them
hearts of compassion, deep wisdom and resources to do what they need
to do in these times to provide protection, care, encouragement and
healing for your people.*

We pray for the church

We pray for protection of all members of our churches. We pray for any who are in isolation or anxious. Loving God fill all your people with confidence in your love and mercy. Help us all to stay in touch with each other, support and care for each other in whatever way we can. In this time of trial, strengthen our love and our faith in you.

We pray for our community.

Loving God we pray for all who have lost their jobs, all who are worried about their debts, all who must work each day in public places and are at risk. Fill them all with an assurance of your love and care and provide them with the assistance and support they need.

We pray for the sick and the dying and the grieving.

We commend to you Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Sue, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Michele, Gillian, Pauline. We pray for patients suffering from serious diseases and those who care for them.

All whose needs are known only to you.

All who have lost loved ones and those who are lost and grieving their lives and freedoms in this time.

All who are sick or in isolation with the Corona Virus.

I pray for those people who I know and are important to me [name them].

We give thanks for the lives of all your faithful servants and we commend those whom we have known and loved who are no longer with us in this life; [name those who you remember] may the light of your eternal love and presence be with them always.

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 forever.
Amen.**

We pause for a moment to join ourselves spiritually with our parish and church community.

May God's peace and blessing be with us all. **Amen.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us;**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer of Spiritual communion [the reserve sacrament is placed where people can see it]

Pause

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen”

Further pause.

Prayer after Communion...

Compassionate and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have fed us and have reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of fasting and prayer, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love.

Father **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory, Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

All parish activities are on hold or under assessment until further notice

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON EASTER SUNDAY 5th APRIL



Heart for justice

When our hearts yearn for justice, it is not with the sense of wanting retribution or revenge.

Justice is what God delivers. Being Just is an attribute of God as is Righteousness and Mercy. A heart that aches for justice will yearn and work for others to have wrongs righted, mercy delivered. The yearning for justice is not for oneself. We do want to be right with God, we do want God to have mercy on us, but our prayer is always for the down-trodden other.

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Isaiah 30:18

Members in Nigeria were among others in Zone E who wanted to focus their support on the vulnerable and marginalised and those in poverty. With a heart for justice they felt advocacy, education and connecting people to government provisions would help to combat the

injustices of disadvantage. As we move into Holy Week may our hearts be open and discerning and may God bless us all.

PLANT SALE-

St Paul's Spring Plant Sale. It seems highly likely with all the "stay at home" restrictions, that our Plant Sale will not be able to be held in May.

Keeping everyone healthy is the most important aim throughout this very serious crisis, but the plant sale will happen at some time and the plants will keep on growing. So with lots of time to spend in the garden and as Autumn is pruning season it's an ideal time to start propagating the cuttings either with many in a pot or in the ground - sink the spade into soil and slide cuttings into slit.

There are plenty of climbing plants in flower now and small side pieces strike easily.

METAL COLLECTION

June is Metal Collection Month - As we have time to sort through sheds, gardens and under the house etc stockpile any metal bits and pieces for our fundraiser.

ANGLICARE

Volunteers are required for the Community Breakfast program on a Monday and Friday morning from 8.15am to 10.15am and for Emergency Relief on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.15am to 12.15pm. If you are able to help, please contact Kim or Naomi on 5333 0600.

Items which are currently required for the Emergency Relief program are: tissues, toilet paper, pasta sauce, long life milk and any other long life food items. Please feel free to drop them in to Anglicare during opening hours.

Parish Directory

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Garry Weatherill

Parish Priest Sr Elisa Helen, CSC

Tel. 5332 6479 [leave a message]

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

The Rev'd Deacon Bert Muysers

Parish Secretary: Lisa Smith

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin

Mark Stewart:

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am- 1pm