

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



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

Seventh Sunday of Easter
24th May 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.



Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back 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 from the Anglican Churches Liturgy. We will use it on Sunday with our Zoom services but if this is not possible for you, then join us at 9.30 am in spirit.

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

When all are gathered, the presider begins:

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17.3

Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and 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

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf.

Silence to reflect.

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

**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/ *absolution*

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 John 2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: *(pause for silent prayer)* O God, whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom: by your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1.6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

PSALM 68. 32-35

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord,

**³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel;
and whose power is in the skies.

**³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.**

Blessed be God!

SECOND READING 1 Peter 5

A reading from the first letter of Peter

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 ²to 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^[b]—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. ⁵In 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.”

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline 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 in all 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 forever 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.

This is the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord said: I will not leave you as orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL John 17.1-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And 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.

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

Reflection - Sr Elisa

Waiting for the Spirit.

Waiting is a spiritual discipline, but if you're like me in any way you're probably not that good at it.

Waiting has a sense of powerlessness and pointlessness to it. Think about Doctors waiting rooms. You sit and you wait usually with a bunch of strangers, normally trying to find ways to distract yourself with magazines or conversations. Sometimes to fill the void, I take reading I need to do for work. There is some anxiety about a visit to the Doctor. What will he or she say to you? This is perhaps truer when you have had tests of some kind and the results may point to something you'd rather not have or know about.

That is one of the issues with waiting- there's always a not knowing in it, when we truly would like to know. I know some people who when they have a health issue, rather than waiting for the answer, they try to

anticipate it by doing lots of homework and self-diagnosing in advance. Then they figure they are ready for what is to come, sometimes that is true but often it is not.

Another issue with waiting is sometimes we anticipate what will happen, but it doesn't happen in the way we want it to happen. In the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples wanted to know what was going to happen. They were thinking politically; that God would restore the Kingdom of Israel through Jesus, and no doubt they would all be rulers in the restored Kingdom, but their vision was way different to Jesus'. Jesus was establishing a new Israel which would include people from every race, tribe and language in the world, his disciples would take the Good News from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Jesus' mission was enormous and costly and extremely hard and so they were told to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower them to continue his mission forward. Sometimes when we wait, we just long for life to be how it used to be. Maybe that's how things are for you at the moment, you can't wait for things to get back to 'normal'. Whatever 'normal' may mean for you. And yet our government is saying to us, it is not quite time and so, we must wait just a little while longer. That too is hard, especially when we can see in some places people getting back to work, but waiting is going to be hard at every stage. As the world begins to open up again from lockdown, there are still restrictions and restrictions will continue, and there will in time be a new normal which is different to the normal we remember. This is true for the disciples, they wanted Jesus to continue to walk among the fields and deserts and valleys and hills and rivers of Israel continuing his marvellous and exciting works of God, but Jesus wanted the whole world to experience this grace and for that to happen he needed to leave them in his bodily form and fill them with his Holy Spirit so they were empowered and we in their place continue to be empowered to take this Gospel forward into the world, so the world could know about it.

As we contemplate how we are going to be the church in the world which is unfolding post Covid19, we need to be considering our mission as a community and how each one of us was commissioned at our baptisms to be Jesus' disciples, and to bear the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world.

In the period between the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost, the young church, which included the apostles and the women who had been with them and other followers, about 120 people they say, gathered together and as Jesus had directed them, prayed and spent time waiting on God for his Spirit to come upon them.

They had no idea what it would be like or what would happen. It was perhaps a bit like putting a cake in the oven and waiting for it to cook. Because they had been with Jesus before and after his resurrection, they kind of knew that what was coming could be trusted, but they were not yet sure how it would turn out.

As we are coming towards the end of this pandemic [hopefully], we have no idea how long the end will take, we know we must move forward cautiously. Parish Council on Thursday night discerned that it is not wise to begin public services yet. We have a disproportionate number of people who fall into the vulnerable category and so unless we as a nation are cleared of Covid19 or a vaccine comes into play, opening the church for services is on hold. The other side of this is that at present the conditions of opening are difficult.

- We must have an hour between services and the church must be cleaned after every service.
- We must have 4 metres for each person.
- We cannot sing because of the risk of droplets from projecting voices.
- We must all clean our hands before and after every service.
- We cannot hang around and socialise after services.

- We cannot use shared books because we cannot clean them after each use.
- People must register before attending and give their name and phone number each time they attend [for contact tracing and to ensure we're not over stepping number limits].

One suggestion is to continue with our Zoom Services at 9.30am on Sundays which seem to be working well and offering Holy Communion to people after the service. For one or two hours I would remain in the church and people could drive down, come in the side door, register name and number, clean hands, receive communion and a blessing and leave via the vestry door. We'll speak about this after the service and you can let me know what you think.

Despite all the ideas floating around, what we need to be doing more than anything during this time is to remain steady. We need to focus on prayer, waiting on God, and discerning what God is calling us to in the future and praying for the Holy Spirit to fill us, inspire us with his love and empower us to complete the mission of Jesus in the world.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited each one of us to participate in a world-wide movement of prayer in this time between Ascension and Pentecost. Each of us is invited to pray for 5 people who do not have a relationship with Jesus each day.

I invite you to reflect on that. Who do you know who does not have a relationship with Jesus? Maybe it is someone you meet at work, maybe it's a friend, maybe a family member- a child or a grandchild. Who are 5 people you can pray for?

Jesus calls all of us to be missionaries, in his great prayer in John he prays for each of us, that the Father may be glorified through us. The glory of the Father is that he is revealed through our lives to others and the world, and that the life of the Father in us is reflected-back towards the Father by our lives. Jesus glorified the Father through his death on the

cross and we glorify the Father by living lives which are sacrificially given to God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Are we there yet?

No!

When? In God's good time!

Be patient, be strong for the Lord your God is with you, 'I am with you always even to the end of the age' Matthew 28: 20

Let us wait in deep and prayerful patience and let us not look back to what was but let us look forward to a Spirit filled future and ultimately the return of Christ to a world prepared for him by lives which are lived to glorify God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

We say the Apostles Creed. And

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father we come to you in the greatness of your love and lift up our hearts in prayer and praise. We thank you that the way to your presence is always open through Jesus Christ and that you invite us to draw near in full assurance of faith. Help us to pray simply and sincerely, unselfishly and gratefully, remembering the needs of others as well as our own, and giving thanks always for everything in the name of Christ our Lord

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O God our Father, we pray for your blessing to rest upon our Church. We are grateful for its worship and fellowship, for its nurture and love. Help us to see the kind of church you need today. May we not lose sight of the many and varied needs of our neighbourhoods. Hold up before us the vision of your kingdom, a kingdom of justice and mercy, truth, and compassion. Help us to grasp the meaning of the gospel which you have entrusted to us and give us grace to live by it.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

In this time of Covid 19, we pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves; those who live in developing countries and countries where there is very little stability. Teach us to be ever mindful of those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less its extras. For those who are struggling with social isolation and anxiety.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our children and grandchildren, as they grow up in our family circle. Give us understanding of their needs and show us how best we can

help them with life in the world. Help us to establish a relationship of trust between them, and ourselves and to make our homes a place where at all times they may find love and security.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are frightened because they are ill especially those with Covid19 and those on our prayer list.

Margaret, Keith, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Sue, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Michele, Gillian, Pauline.

And any whom we hold in hearts this day...

We pray especially for those who have no one to help them, that in their loneliness they may know that you are with them.

Reassure them that because of the knowledge that you give to us, many diseases can now be cured. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain and suffering.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help all who are grieving to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within, and the fellowship of the church family around them until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died. We name those whom we remember today ... *[people can name out loud or in silence]*

Those who have died from Covid19

You turn our darkness into light in your light shall we see light

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Father we pray that we may thankfully remember Christ's redeeming love and meet with him as our living Lord. May we come to him with joyful and expectant hearts, and leave nourished and strengthened in spirit to serve you in the world, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GREETING OF PEACE

Alleluia! We are the body of Christ!

His Spirit is with us! Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Amen.

[We wave to each other as a sign of peace]

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Prayer

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Thanksgiving, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we are dispersed from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Salvation we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The preface continues... forever praising you and singing:
**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.**

The Eucharistic prayer continues...
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*The prayer concludes with ...*in songs of never ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body in Christ,
for we all share in the one bread.

**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 your peace.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The body of Christ broken for you.
The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Prayer after Communion...

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 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

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!

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Readings for next Sunday Acts 2.1-21, Psalm 104.26-36, 1 Corinthians 12.1-13, John 20.19-23

Diary for the next week

5pm. Tuesday Evening: Zoom Evening Prayer with focus on prayer for Covid19 & our Diocese. All welcome to join us.

10.30am. Thursdays. Cuppa and chat on Zoom – bring your own cuppa and join us.

KNITTING YARN

Thank you for the beautiful wool that was donated by many to support Syrian refugee children with warm jumpers.

With gratitude, Sue Lanyon

Ministry Development Committee: Bible Reading Challenge for June.



An excellent resource, based around the Gospel reading for each day in June is now available. Sr Elisa will forward a copy via email next week. If any would like a full printed hard copy then please let Sr Elisa know ASAP.

We will have meetings on Wednesdays 5.30pm over June to reflect on the readings and questions. This will be our Bible Study for June.



The kingdom of God

‘The reign of God was manifest in the deeds of Jesus. As presented in his teaching and work it is essentially God’s Kingdom, not ours. ... Jesus had come to do what the Jewish Law could never accomplish – to restore God’s damaged and perverted creation to its original destiny.’ Alan Richardson in *A Theological Word Book of the Bible*. p. 120-121. God’s kingdom is among us as we read the gospels, and as we ‘be as Christ’ to our neighbour. To God be the power and the glory. *Nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” Luke 17: 21*

Mothers' Union in All Ireland respond to the perennial problems of gender-based violence, and the many who are alone and dispossessed in modern society. Members bring Christ's love with personal interaction at community events. May those whom they meet see the Reign of God breaking in.

ANGLICARE

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.

Thy Kingdom Come

The week between Ascension and Pentecost has traditionally been observed as a Time of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, we are being asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury to join with Anglicans around the world, praying for the Coming of the Kingdom. In its simplest form, you are asked to pray for five friends or relatives who do not know the saving love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Each day between Ascension (Thursday 21st and Pentecost, Sunday 31st) you are invited to pray for the same five people, that God may become more present in their lives and hearts. I urge you to engage in this simple but powerful way in which we join our prayers to the prayer of Jesus in Jn: 17, that we may all be one.

PLANT SALE

Gardening tips for our November Plant Sale –

Hanging baskets - using climbing geraniums- firstly drill 4 holes just below the rim of the plastic pot spaced equally around the rim. Fill pot with soil and plant 4-5 geranium cuttings around the edge. Place in a sheltered position - the string/cord can be threaded though the holes for hanging later in the year.

Succulents which have long strands also work well.

Books -a great time to sort out the bookcase for our book stall in November--and tell family and friends, can be collected later when we are able to get out and about.

Sheep poo is for sale in \$1 & \$2 bags contact Avis - mob 0408 801 192, Noella 0418 501 382, or Deirdre 0408 433 481 to order.

METAL COLLECTION

June is Metal Collection Month - keep collecting metal items also car and bike batteries

Metal collection for June -- check roadside /nature strips for metal items that are free.

Metals can now be taken to the Kings Marine Stores Scrap Metal Dealers but there are new regulations to follow.

The Depot in Skipton Street will only accept batteries, lead, copper, stainless steel, brass, aluminium.

The Depot in Hammer Court -off Coronet St, will only accept steel and white goods. There is a weigh bridge at this place.

When delivering metal tell them you are from St Pauls and they will give you a receipt for value of metal. pass this onto a member of the parish council / fundraising committee

Trading hours at both Depots are Mon - Friday 8am - 4,30pm, Sat 8am - 12 noon

At the end of June the total amount of money raised will be banked into the church account which should balance with the receipts.

If you require assistance with getting the metal to a depot please contact Noella 0418 501 382

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

St. Paul's Office *[closed during Covid 19 restrictions]*

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www.stpaulsbakeryhill.org.au

Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am- 1pm