

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

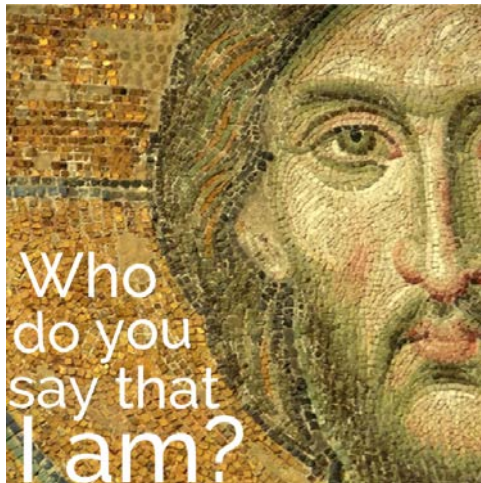


"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

Sunday Twelfth after Pentecost –23rd August 2020

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

Welcome to St Paul's! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer where-ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact Sister Elisa to be included via St Paul's email or phone number. See back page.



Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Dear people of St Paul's,

I hope and pray you are managing life on the stage 3 restrictions and are feeling your spiritual life is being sustained. Since the early days of Covid19, we have had a small roster of people in the parish who have been ringing the church bell every evening a 6pm to remind people that we are praying and remembering the trials we are all experiencing.

I had a man approach me a few weeks back when I was standing out the front of the church on Humffray Street who asked me about the bell. He said he listens for it every night and takes comfort from it. I have had a few others mention it as well which is very reassuring. My brother in law stated that it has a lovely tone.

In the past, when many people didn't have time pieces, church bells were always rung to call the surrounding villagers to worship, so bell ringing would be part of the community gathering ritual at the start of a service. In the Solomon Islands they still use drums.

At present I am trying to say evening prayer around that time so there is at least someone praying. Can I encourage you, as near as you can to 6pm each night, to perhaps take 5minutes out, to pray for the church and for all those who are caught up with Covid19; the sick, the researchers, the carers, the managers, the police, and the political leaders. Pray for healing, compassion, and wisdom as we work our way through these days.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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.

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE:

Jesus said to them, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Matt 16.15-16

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

'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

Silence to reflect.

Let us therefore bring our sins to the one true God, in penitence and faith.

**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, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the Living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 1.8-2.10

A reading from the book of Exodus

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So

the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

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

PSALM 124

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² **if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,**

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ **then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;**

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ **Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.**

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

SECOND READING Romans 12.1-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in

teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 16.13-20

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection – Sr Elisa

The original building of Christ Church Melton had shonky foundations and the clay soil on which it was built moved over the years so gradually the integrity of the structure declined until one

day an archdeacon preaching in the church was hit on the head by a piece of the ceiling falling down. That led to the church being examined and a restore or demolish order was given by the town council, so the building came down and a new one was built.

The original St Paul's was built on a hill close to gold mines, the wind blew and the rain fell and the building collapsed and of course the current St Paul's was built in a slightly improved position with much better foundations.

Foundations are important for buildings and are equally important for life.

I believe that the Christian faith is the best foundation one could have for life, but even Christian faith needs to be built on the right foundation. So, what is the foundation of our faith, the rock on which it is built?

The foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ our Lord and our Messiah, the Son of the Living God as St Peter put it. Anything less than that is not going to go the distance. We may begin a bit off the mark, but as long as our growth is Spirit led, then we are on the right track.

In the Gospel today, St Peter is named 'Petros', or rock, by Jesus, because he hit the mark in his response to identifying who Jesus is. As we will see next week, he didn't truly understand what was meant by Jesus as the Messiah, but he was on the journey.

So, who do you say Jesus is?

It's a challenging question! One that is answered in a life journey.

I once asked a study group to explain to me how they understood Jesus and what he meant to them.

Most of the group found it hard to put into words about how they understood Jesus and what he meant. Some said they thought he was a good man whom they could learn from. Some said he was a friend. Some said other things which after all these years I can't remember. I accepted all that the members of the group said because what they said was true, it may not have been true in the fullest sense though. Jesus is and can be all these things. There was one man in the group who had a little bit of theology who got his knickers in a real knot over it all, because none of them had the doctrinal formula right and I wasn't correcting them! My view and goal were, to lead them to a fuller understanding which they could own as their personal faith, something we all need. St Paul told his church members to be transformed-not transform yourself! It is easy to say correct formulas but that is not necessarily the content of our faith.

In the end, who we say Jesus is, is revealed by the way we live. How we have endeavoured to know Jesus and understand his teaching so as to follow him and serve him faithfully; and by our relationship with him, and how his love has transformed us. When we see the life of Peter unfold, we see just this. Peter was a strong leader, he made many mistakes but he stuck with Jesus most of the time, so his faith grew and in time he found himself leading the church after Jesus' ascension.

Today's story is one that is common to all the Gospels, but Matthew adds a dimension which is not in any of the others when Jesus says to Peter:

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus makes the whole thing about the faith of the church, more than the individual. So, let us focus in on this passage and see how it works.

To know Jesus as Messiah and Son of God does not require a rational understanding. It comes from revelation. That is, it is not something a person can work out on their own but is revealed to them by God and with it comes a profound responsibility: the church and its mission.

The church is built through this relationship with Jesus, the Messiah. Our being in communion with each other is bound by our belonging to Jesus as our Lord and Messiah. As such, it is worked out within a community of Gods people whose heart and minds are focused on Jesus and who together follow him as his disciples.

Individually we may not get it right all the time. Individually we may need to grow into our belief just as Peter did. Next week we will see him fall on his face. He moves from being a rock to an obstacle to the grace of God. Over his lifetime, Peter made many mistakes. Perhaps his biggest mistake was during the crucifixion when he

denied knowing Jesus. The thing which separated Peter from Judas the betrayer, was that when Jesus rose, Peter was still there with the community and so was reconciled with Jesus, and began to understand what his profession of faith in Jesus meant,

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

It means that our understanding of who Jesus really is comes from being in relationship with Jesus through the community of faith.

People in our individualistic culture like to say, I can be a Christian on my own, I am a good and loving person. This so misses the point. We cannot be Christians on our own, to be a Christian means to be a part of the body of Christ and to be incorporated into Christ through baptism and reconciliation [forgiveness]. Forgiveness is both incorporated into baptism but is also an ongoing life discipline. That all means belonging to the Church.

When we belong to the church, that is the community of professing believers, the world can rail against us and it does, the community and individuals within it may at times fail to live up to its call, and that happens, sometimes appallingly-thus at times people become let down and disillusioned. But when we belong to the church, the world beyond cannot harm it at its core. It cannot destroy its faith in Jesus.

What is important for us as the church is to not be focused on ourselves, our survival, or what we want to do or not do, we need to be focused on Jesus and where he is leading us, what he wants us as a community to be and do. And we are called to be the visible sign of the kingdom of God on earth. The incarnate presence of

God, carried forward from the living, breathing, dying and resurrected Christ in the world.

Thus when we are living out of this faith, we live as the visible expression in the world of the kingdom of God, and in the spiritual battle for the hearts and minds of people we carry God's authority to speak, to include or to exclude [that is a 'we'- not a 'you or me'].

At the end of the day, it is not about us, so we may suffer as Jesus did, there is no guarantee against suffering, but the Kingdom of God will remain firm and will not be overcome. One of the testimonies of this truth is the way the church seems to flourish in places of persecution.

So, the key message in this for us is for our foundation to be strong so that we do not waver and collapse as God's Kingdom people. How do we do this; well; as the church, we are led by the Spirit of God to profess Jesus as Messiah, and as such we are to surrender our lives to him. That is, we are to follow him in love, grace and generosity, and then worship him as our Lord and Saviour. As God's people we are to be accountable to each other for how we live and behave, and we call each other in love, to grow into the family of God, Christ has both called us to be and is leading us to be and has already given his life for us, that we may be that Church. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

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

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, hear our prayers for your world and your church.

You are the Prince of Peace: bring peace to your broken, bleeding world, that war and disease may cease, and your people live in safety and security.

Pause

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

You are the Wisdom of God; give insight to the leaders of nations, that they may govern wisely, and your people enjoy health, dignity and justice.

Pause

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

You are the Saviour of the world; increase the faith of your people, that we may burn with love for you and proclaim your Gospel in all the world.

Pause

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

You are the Way, the Truth & the Life; lead us in your way and guide us in your truth, that we may live in love for you and each other.

Pause

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

You are the close Companion of the lonely; keep company with the friendless and the isolated, that they may feel your loving presence and know they are not alone.

Pause

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

You are the Comfort of the broken hearted: sit with the sorrowing, that in their distress they may know your consolation and be comforted.

Pause

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

You are the Healer of the suffering; bring release to those in anguish of body, mind or spirit, that in their pain they may know your peace.

Pause

Particularly at this time we remember:

Daniel, Vicki, David & Vera, Ken, Margaret, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel, Heather, Ann, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Gillian, Pauline & Barrie, Hilary.

We also pray for all who are infected with Covid19 and all who care for them.

We pray also the disabled and those in aged care.

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

You are the Resurrection and the Life; raise us out of death to life, that with Peter, Martha, and all who have recognised you as the Messiah, we may dwell for ever in your presence.

Pause

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

Adapted from 'Let Us Pray' Janet Nelson

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

We are the body of Christ!

His Spirit is with us!

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The body of Christ broken for you.

The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Father we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

THE BLESSING

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From the text of A Prayer Book for Australia, published under the imprint of Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd. Reproduced with permission. CCLI License No: 218042.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 9.30am: Exodus 3.1-15, Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26, Romans 12.9-21, Matthew 16.21-28

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. Thursday: Bible Study via Zoom all welcome.
Surprised by Hope: NT Wright.
[All welcome-contact Sr Elisa for information and resources]
- 10.30am Friday cuppa and chat (via Zoom)
- 9.30 am Sunday Eucharist [Zoom]. *Contact Sr Elisa for the link to the service if you do not have it.*



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

Ethical matters

Our Church has lost the confidence of the wider community. Scandals, infighting, power struggles all provide food for censure. Of course, this is nothing new. Human beings of whatever caste will ethically disintegrate when society does. One of the earliest New Testament texts, Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses exactly this issue. He says that they, the Christians in Corinth, need to be seen to be truthful and honest and loving because if they are not, they, and what they stand for, will have no credibility.

for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of others. 2 Corinthians 8: 21

St Paul would be proud of the members in the diocese of Northern Argentina, in Zone B. From mainly indigenous communities, despite poverty and some conflict, they are very faithful and resourceful. There is also growth in urban areas, for which we give thanks to God.

MASK FUNDRAISER



All masks are \$10 each. To order, contact Avis,
email avis.mason@gmail.com or mobile 0408 801192

There are 3 styles, Fitted, Pleated or Tubes. The tubes come in small, medium or large.

Feel free to mention this to any folk you know who may be glad of a mask.

YEARS MIND

George Hill, Edward Orchard, Arthur Radford, William Taylor, Alfred Collins, Ronald Karlson, George Sheppard (23) Raymond Schickerling, William Furley, Edward Champion, Olive Hill (24) Robert Angow, John Butson, Elizabeth Magee, Elizabeth Allen, Alma Davies, Leslie O'Connor (25) Annie Brown, Olive Hill, Stanley Bear, Colin Dobbin, Esther Vance, Elsie Ferres, Len Noble(26) John Sugar, Richard Nankervis, Edna Nankervis, Liliane Walters, John Triggar, Gordon West (27) Edith Dark, Frank Hollioake, Emma Brownlow (28) Henry Carter, Albert Greed, John Price, William Sampson, James Thompson (29)

PLANT SALE

Spring Star Flower-mauve & Grape Hyacinths. To order contact NOELLA Phone 0418 501 382

There are 18 pots of Grape Hyacinths and 8 pots of Spring Star Flowers available.



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 ph

0438 362 589

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin ph 0414 786 762

Mark Stewart ph 0488 333 481

Heather Clinton ph 0402 262 779

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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

At Anglicare: Cnr of St Paul's Way & Victoria St.

PO Box 1460, Ballarat, 3354

Email: stpaulsballarat@hotmail.com

www.stpaulsbakeryhill.org.au