

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



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

Christ the King

Last Sunday after Pentecost–15th November 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.



8am Morning prayer

10am Morning prayer

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1. Peter 1.3

Open our lips O Lord,

And we shall proclaim your praise.

This is the day the Lord has made,

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Friends in Christ, we come together to meet with God, and to take our part in the building up of his Church. We will lift our hearts in thanksgiving and praise, hear from God's holy word, and pray for this world and ourselves.

The Bible tells us to approach God confidently, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we do so, we must confess our sins, seeking forgiveness through God's boundless goodness and mercy.

Pause

So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together,

God of all mercy, we humbly admit that we need your help. We have wandered from your way. We have sinned in thought, word and deed, and failed to do what is right.

You alone can save us. Have mercy on us and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit that we may live the new life to your glory. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Affirmation of forgiveness.

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 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

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 4. 10.

Please stand

Greeting of peace

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Grace and peace be with you.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace.

A word of praise

We praise you, O God,

we acclaim you as the Lord;

all creation worships you,

the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,

the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free

you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints

to glory everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray.

Silence

Heavenly Father, give us wisdom and understanding. As we listen to your word, may we know you better, love you more, and learn to please you in all we do;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

A reading from the book of Ezekiel

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

PSALM 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

⁵ For the LORD is good; Blessings
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Ephesians 1.15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25.31-46

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to

me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon – Fr Geoffrey Tisdall

On this final Sunday of the church’s year we celebrate the sovereign reign of Christ as Lord of all. At the same time we complete a series of readings from the Gospel of Matthew that began last year on the 1st Sunday of Advent. And what a grand finale it is. The story of the ministry and teaching of Jesus comes to a climax at the end of ch 25, and then there follows the account of his passion, his sufferings.

A great vision is set before us of the Last Judgment, the solemnity of a final sifting and sorting of all people. The presiding judge is portrayed in kingly grandeur, not fierce and grim, but a Son of Man, a second Adam if you like, that so human Jesus, who we learn in the Gospel narrative, has drawn to himself so much of hurt and affliction, from all around him, despised, rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, ever the “Son of Man.”

Triumphant in his glory now, it as Shepherd that he sorts and sifts “all the nations,” as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The shepherds of the human race so often fail those in their care, as the Covid 19 pandemic demonstrates so terribly in many parts of the world, but the hope held up in the prophet Ezekiel we hear in our first reading today finds focus upon a glorious figure whose shepherding care does match the ideal. “I myself will be shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak . . . I will feed them with justice.” [Ezekiel 34.15-16]

In many parts of the world sheep and goats are looked after in the same flock, but a time must come for a shepherd to sort out the sheep from the goats. Being more valuable to him the sheep are placed upon his right. It is to a very surprised people to whom a royal shepherd cries, “Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

They are surprised, puzzled. They have done nothing extraordinary, no outstanding achievement that might warrant any special attention. Here and there that have perhaps done what they could, without much fuss; yet a voice is saying, "Come . . . inherit a kingdom . . . for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." In amazement they ask, when? When did we do this? And they are told, "Truly I tell you, anything you did for the least of my brothers and sisters you did for me." A cup of cold water, given spontaneously is of eternal significance.

Of such refreshment we learn in the Letter to the Hebrews, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." [Hebrews 13.2]

But even more profoundly here Jesus speaks of "the least of these my brethren" as it used to be translated. A cup of cold water to the littlest and the least, of reaching out in welcome to the stranger, of clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the prisoner, as ever the focus of the Scriptures, our concern for the poor, lone parents and their children, so often in the Bible called the widow and the fatherless. In reaching out to those who are dearest to Jesus, we are ministering to Christ himself. We are encountering, as Mother Theresa used to put it, "Christ in his distressing disguise."

Much of this concern and outreach is facilitated by agencies and government, say in increasing funding for mental health facilities or in new and increased housing for those struggling most to have a roof over their heads. But we cannot lose sight of the importance of the personal encounter, sometimes with risks attached, as I think of the wife of my nephew who has two young children at home, but who works at the Alfred Hospital nursing Covid patients.

For those who struggle most in our society, the addicted person ahead of me in the queue at the supermarket spending big on cigarettes, I can be swift in my judgement, unaware of the whole story, pointing outwards with an invisible interior accusing finger, forgetting how quickly the finger can be turned back towards me, to confront my too swift categorizing of who is in or out, my likes or dislikes, who I may secretly regard as

unattractive or inferior, worthy or unworthy. Judgment belongs to God and not to us. And with most of the great religions of humankind we look to a final judgement. It is for all, for every person. Whether we are believers or not, we must ultimately stand before God, responsible for our deeds of justice, mercy and compassion or their lack.

There is a rigour and sharpness here that is unavoidable, yet we bring to it a humility about our incapacity, a softening of this scene by the One we know already in part, and especially in our embrace of the afflictions of others, ever for us, the Good Shepherd, the Son of Man, whose grace abounding, may yet find us, and our dear ones, within Christ's full embrace. Amen.

Apostles Creed

**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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us.

**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.

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens,

Let your glory cover the earth.

Keep our nation under your care,

And guide us in justice and truth.

Let your way be known on earth,

Your saving power among all nations.

Send out your light and your truth,

That we may tell of your saving works.

Have mercy on the poor and the oppressed.

Hear the cry of those in need.

Hear our prayers, O Lord,

For we put our trust in you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY: *(pause for silent prayer)* God of power and love, who raised your Son Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation: free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Let your requests be made known unto God.

In everything give thanks.

Prayers:

We give thanks for our beautiful world, for signs of new life in spring, for rain and sunshine, flowers and love.

Father hear us, **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for the nations of the world. For all leaders, our own Prime Minister, state premiers, local council leaders especially here in Ballarat and all leaders in our country. We pray for the new president of the USA. And all world leaders. For wisdom in these days of Covid-19.

Father hear us, **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for our Anglican Church of Australia, our Primate Geoff Smith, our Bishop Garry and our Ballarat Diocese. We pray for all bishops, clergy and people in the church. We pray especially for St Paul's and its people as we begin to open up for services. May God bless us, guide us and lead us in your purposes.

Father hear us, **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for our local community of East Ballarat, for those who have special needs, single parent families, young people coming to the end of their school year especially those who are leaving school this year, for all teachers. We pray for all who work in retail, trades or business and serve our local community.

Father hear us, **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We pray for all who are need especially those who have requested our prayers we pray for Ivor, Daniel, Vicki, David & Vera, Margaret, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Heather, Ann, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr Peter, Seth, Corey, Gillian, Pauline & Barrie, Hilary.

All who are sick with Covid19, all who care for them and any others we carry in our hearts this day.

Father hear us, **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Faithful God, you have promised to hear the prayers of all who ask in Jesus' name.

In your mercy, accept our prayers. Give us what we have asked in faith, according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gifts are brought to the altar.

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

Eternal God and Father,

**By whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to
your service,**

And live this day in love to one another and to you:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

And give you peace. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 8am & 10am: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24,
Psalm 100, Ephesians 1.15-23, Matthew 25.31-46

Diary for the next week

- 10.30am Thursday: Morning Prayer at St Pauls.
- 10.30 am Friday, Coffee and chat at 'A Pot of Courage', 25-39 Barkly Sq. Please book with Sue Lanyon. Mob: 0429 092 205
- Sunday 8am Morning Prayer at St Pauls.
- Sunday 10am Morning Prayer at St Pauls.

[to attend a live service you must ring or email Bert Muysers in advance to reserve your place. We cannot allow more than 20 people to attend. Which means, between Thursday and Sunday services we have 60 places. I suggest you choose a service which fits your life and make that your regular service.]



Gender Justice

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1.27
In the Anglican Communion we are committed to ensuring that our churches become a living witness to our belief that women and men are equally made in the image of God. Within the Communion and beyond, we recognise that the empowerment of women and men to live and work in just relationship requires a transformation among individuals and in all our communities. Statement and Bible verse copied from the Anglican Communion Website. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Luke 8: 17 Thought for the Week from Mothers union Australia 5
Perhaps the greatest impact of the recent work of MU in Ireland has been raising awareness of gender-based violence. This has been achieved by helping the needy, elderly, prisoners and their families and all types of vulnerable people. Members hold annual services and events to support the 16 Days of Activism. May God bless their endeavours.

ST PAUL'S CALENDAR 2021

In the absence of photos and people in and around our church community this year we are going to try for a special edition of our calendar with a focus on our church community.

In the past we have gathered photos of people and events, but this year we are asking our church community to take a photo of themselves, family or a permitted group and send it to me with a one liner message.

The one liner could expresswhat St. Paul's means to me/us

.....why I/we are a member of St. Paul's

..... a short phrase from the bible that inspires you.... or something else that inspires you

Locations could include home, church, garden etc.

Items can be emailed to avis.mason@gmail.com

ONLINE PLANT SALE

The sale is finally about to finish with just a few pickups to go. Good news -- the takings up until Thursday night are \$3500 with more to come from late payments. This has been an amazing effort and only a couple of trays of plants left -these will keep growing until next sale. In preparation for our next sale pictures of plants which are now in full bloom would be great to take, as customers like to see a picture of the mature plant before buying a small version of it. These photos can be forwarded to Deirdre with plants next year. Also potting up seedlings of trees, bushes etc which have grown from seed this spring, will certainly be helpful for our next sale. Trees/bushes were very popular and we needed many more than we had, to fill the orders. Thanks again to everyone for your enthusiastic support for the plant sale.

MASK FUNDRAISER

Our masks are still available for sale at \$10 each, there are 2 styles fitted and pleated. We have removed the neck warmer from sale as new restrictions indicate what the fabric and style may be, but this style can still be used as a great neck warmer and head band. All masks are washable. To order contact Avis email avis.mason@gmail.com or mobile 0408 801 192

ST PAUL'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Books of tickets available at church.

Tickets are \$1 each, book of 10 tickets \$10. 1st Prize Christmas Hamper, 2nd Prize Christmas Cake, 3rd Prize, \$20 Voucher plus Mystery Prizes. Raffle drawn Sunday 13th Dec at the 10am service, Money and Raffle tickets due back by Sunday 6th Dec -these -in an envelope labelled "RAFFLE" -can be -placed in the collection bowl at church services. Donations for the Hamper and Mystery Prizes plus any Christmas gift bags would be greatly appreciated which can be left in the vestry , brought to church services or placed in the box at the Rectory door. Only 14 days to return raffle tickets and money.

YEARS MIND

Susan Barrell, Jane Watts, Vera Jones, Dorothy Stocks, Harold Powell, Helen Pugh, Nancy Evans (22) Lorraine Trahar, George Vincent, Florence Hughes (23) Harold Vaughan, Evelyn Reeder, Ida Dwyer, Raymond Sargent, Tom Wall (24) Violet Rogers, Harold Cunningham, Alice McGregor, Sarah Bicknell (25) William Edwards, William Smith, Annie Garlick (26) Maisie Wilson, Alison Wittingslow, Susannah Farnington, Marleen Miller, Elizabeth Lloyd (27) Leslie Hopkins (28)

LECTIONARIES

The new lectionaries have arrived. Please contact Lisa on 0438 362 589 to arrange collection. The cost is \$11.50 per copy.

SPRING SPIRITUALITY DAY

St Matthew's Parish Wendouree invites you to a Spring Spirituality Day 28th November 2020

Register for this free event by emailing the parish office:

smw@ballaratanglican.org.au

Saturday, November 28 2020 (PM) A PM session on the themes of 'Prayer', 'Hallowed be Thy Name' and 'Meditation' (tbc) with Carol O'Connor. (Carol is the manager of St Peter's bookroom in Melbourne, also a leader of spiritual retreats with a literary flavour). More information about Session two next week.

ADVENT STUDY

Advent is coming! The Ministry Development Committee recommends the ABM resource, Songs from a Strange Land as an excellent series of reflections for each day from Advent Sunday thru to Epiphany. The booklet can be purchased from ABM at www.songsfromastrangeland.org for \$11, or it can be downloaded as an app to your phone FREE!

ANGLICARE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Anglicare is requesting donations of toys, Christmas food, vouchers or money. They would also appreciate help delivering hampers.

If you know anyone who would benefit from a hamper or care package please let Lisa know on 0438 362 589 or email the parish office.

Requests need to be made by Monday 7th December.

ADVENT STUDY

During Advent on the first three Wednesdays, Sr Elisa is planning to do a series of meditative services at 5.30pm with reflections based on Advent themes.

1. Advent hope
[Wednesday. Dec 2]
2. Advent joy.
[Wednesday Dec 9]
3. Advent love.
[Wednesday Dec 16]

These services will be both in person in the church and on Zoom.

You are of course all invited.

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 ph 0413 158 437

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

Safe Church and Covidsafe Officer:

Sue Lanyon ph 0429092205

suelanyon@hotmail.com

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

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Email: stpaulsballarat@hotmail.com

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