



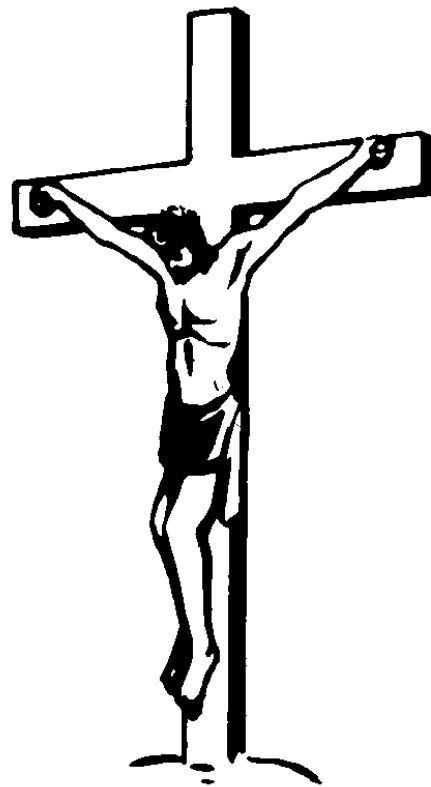
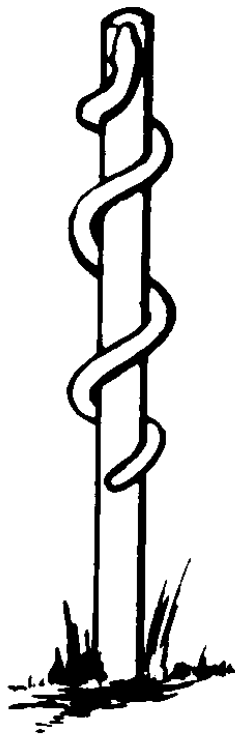
Fourth Sunday in Lent (*Mothering Sunday*)

14 March 2021

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.

All pew sheets, music sheets or any other papers used must be taken home for further use or disposal.



*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up*

8:00 am

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.
whose mercy endures forever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation in suitable words

Let us pray.
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.

We say together

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

*During Lent, the ancient Hymn of Praise, Gloria in excelsis, is omitted.
Instead, we say together another ancient refrain, the Trisagion:*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

The President says

Let us pray.

*The community may pray silently, before the President "collects" the communal prayer in
the prayer of the Church for the day and for the season, to which the people respond:*

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Book Numbers:

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom;
but the people became impatient on the way.
The people spoke against God and against Moses,
'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.'
Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.
The people came to Moses and said,
'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.'
So Moses prayed for the people.
And the Lord said to Moses,
'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.'
So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Numbers 21: 4–9

Reader For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

R: Let us thank the Lord for his goodness.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
for his loving mercy is for ever.

Let the Lord's redeemed say so:
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

And gathered in from every land,
from the east and from the west:
from the north and from the south. **R.**

Fools were far gone in transgression:
and because of their sins were afflicted.

They sickened at any food:
and had come to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:
and he took them out of their trouble. **R.**

He sent his word and healed them:
and saved their life from the Pit.

Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:
and for the wonders that he does
for the children of Adam;

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving:
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Church in Ephesus:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Reader For the Word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Deacon The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus continued speaking to Nicodemus, and said,

‘Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Those who believe in him are not condemned;

but those who do not believe are condemned already,

because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world,

and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,

so that their deeds may not be exposed.

But those who do what is true come to the light,

so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

John 3:14-21

Deacon For the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

HOMILY

Silence is kept

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

All stand

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Prayers are offered for the world, the Church, for our local community, those sick or “in any other adversity”, and we remember the faithful departed.

For the Anglican Church

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile (The Anglican Church in Chile, Abp Tito Zavala);
The Diocese of Perth (Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, Clergy and People); Diocesan Cross-Cultural Ministry; the Parish of St John’s, Healesville with St Paul’s, Yarra Glen.

For all in need

Bryan, Jenny, Margaret, Sam, Milroy, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Peter, Ann, Leon, Erica, Josh, Eric, and members of the Parish in hospital facing surgery or recovering from an illness.

For the Faithful Departed

We pray for Willard May, Gladys Harris, Nellie King, Wilma Cuming, Effie MacMeikan, Patricia Mary Olney, Patricia Wuchatsch, Leonard Dixon, John Brooke Scott *whose anniversaries of death we remember this week.*

When the Intercessor has finished offering the Prayers of the People, the President collects the intercessions of all:

President: 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. Amen.**

Let us pray:

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him
and he in us. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence is kept

Let us the ask for mercy, confessing our sins 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.**

The President pronounces absolution, and the people respond

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

All stand.

The Greeting of Peace is introduced with these or other suitable words.

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The President says:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 President continues with a prayer recalling God's saving acts, culminating with:

Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

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 prayer continues recalling the Supper our Lord shared with his disciples, until the
deacon says:*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying you destroyed our death,

Rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The prayer concludes with a triumphant acclamation:

**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,

for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei is said:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **have mercy on us.**

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

The President invites people to the Lord's Table in suitable words.

After all have received the sacrament, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The President offers a prayer, ending with

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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The President pronounces God's blessing, to which all respond
Amen.

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

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| BIBLE READINGS: 5th Sunday in Lent | 21 March 2021 |
| Jeremiah 31:31-34 | Hebrews 5:5-14 |
| Psalms 119:9-16 | John 12:20-33 |

THE WEEK AHEAD

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|--|--|---|
| Today 14 March <i>(Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday)</i> | 8:00am 10:00am 5:00pm | Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Eucharist with <i>Lectio Divina</i> |
| Monday 15 March | 9:00am 5:00pm | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer |
| Tuesday 16 March | 9:00am 9:15am 5:00pm 7.00pm | Morning Prayer Morning Prayer (Zoom) ID: 842 4076 8006, Password: SGM3144 or you can connect by putting into your search browser the following, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/842 4076 8006 Evening Prayer Parish Council Meeting |
| Wednesday 17 March <i>Patrick, Missionary and Bishop</i> | 9:00am 5:00pm 7.00 pm | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Lent Study Group |
| Thursday 18 March | 9:00am 10:15am 5:00pm | Morning Prayer Eucharist, followed by Lent Study Group Evening Prayer |
| Friday 19 March <i>Joseph of Nazareth</i> | 9:00am 5:00pm | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer |
| Next Sunday 5th Sunday in Lent 21 March | 8:00am 10:00am 3:30pm 5:00pm | Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Lent Study Group Eucharist with <i>Lectio Divina</i> |

FROM THE CURATE

Today the Church observes not just one, but three commemorations: the Fourth Sunday in Lent, Refreshment ('Laetere') Sunday and Mothering Sunday. This might seem a bit overboard, especially during Lent. There may also be glimpses of a rare liturgical colour, pink, for an outburst of what in Latin is 'Laetere' or joy. Combine all this with Mothering Sunday and the sense of eccentricity is complete.

We keep the tradition of remembering and honouring our Mothers from days when servants, many of whom were older children or adolescents, were permitted to take this Sunday in Lent to return home to their mothers. If they worked in a big house, a kindly cook might well have baked Simnel Cakes as a seasonal offering for the servants to take to their mothers and, thanks to Brian, Simnel cake will indeed be offered and blessed at the Eucharist this morning before we share it together.

So, here we are, more than half way through Lent: how you are travelling with your chosen Lenten Practice and with this season of repentance and renewal?

The scripture readings today make it clear that it is time to make decisions. It is an entirely positive choice that we are offered - to welcome the love that God has poured out on us in Christ ... but still we hesitate ... afraid to come out of the darkness and into such wonderful light.

Is it possible that your fear of potentially losing 'control' over your life, condemn you to a kind of exile? The constant temptation seems to be for us to hold firmly to our known patterns of life ... simply because they are familiar to us ... even though, experience informs us that, they bring no lasting joy.

As much as we may lament our 'lot' in life, all too often we let fear paralyse us. In today's readings we are offered the opportunity to stop ... put all else aside just for now, and to truly open our eyes to the beauty and wonder of God's love for us, in Christ.

In the first sentence of the gospel from John, Jesus recalls the episode recounted in the Old Testament reading from Numbers when the Israelites who had been bitten by deadly snakes in the desert, were saved by gazing at the bronze serpent raised by Moses. The phrase "lifted up" is intentionally ambiguous, suggesting both crucifixion and resurrection.

The reading from Ephesians is what we might describe as, "pure good news". By God's goodness and mercy we have been raised to life in Christ and given a place in him. This is all grace, all gift. In these few words we have the essence of the gospel preached by Paul - we are saved by the grace of God, not by our own efforts.

Do you ever dare to see yourself in that beautiful phrase, as 'what God has made us'? Can you sit, even for a moment, and bask in being God's work of art? How could we refuse such an invitation?!

NOTICES

LENT STUDY GROUPS

Continue this week at the following times and places:

Wednesdays at 7:00pm in Ormond

Thursdays at 11:00ish, in the Parish Centre, immediately after the 10:15am eucharist

Sundays at 3:30pm, in the Parish Centre, prior to evening service

'COVID19 NORMAL' REGULATIONS

The restrictions and rules for services often change in these times of Covid19 pandemic.

Please continue to observe all the current guidelines:

- **If you feel unwell, you must not attend church.**
- **It is mandatory to wear a mask, covering your mouth and nose, at all times indoors, including in church. Only the person leading or speaking in a service can be unmasked, unless you have a medical exemption.**
- **Sanitising of hands is mandatory as you enter AND as you leave the church.**
- The density quotient of **2** sq m per person, can only be used if **everyone registers electronically** prior to the start of the service. This allows **102** to attend the service, making a total of **120** including choir, clergy, servers etc. The 2 sq m spatial distancing rule means ensuring a minimum of an elbow's distance at all times.
- When people do not register electronically, prior to the start of a service, we are required to use the density quotient of **4** sq m per person. This allows only **51** people to attend and they must sit in alternate pews, maintaining a distance of 1.5m.
- You are reminded that shaking hands, hugging, kissing or any other kind of physical contact is not permitted **at any time**, with anyone not in your immediate family/household.
- There will be no passing around of the collection bowl to avoid multiple handling the bowl. The collection bowl/s are placed at the door as you arrive for your offering.
- Communion will remain in one kind only, that is no sharing of a common cup, for the foreseeable future.
- All Pew Sheets are single use only. Please do not leave them in the church or on site after the service, rather take them home for re-use or disposal.

- Please note that whilst we have multiple services some days and the premises are again being hired out again, the church, parish centre and offices are cleaned and sanitised following WorkSafe pandemic guidelines, so you can be assured of the cleanliness of the buildings and furnishings.

SERVERS AND READERS TRAINING:

Preparation for Holy Week and Easter

As we prepare for the great festivals of the Church in Holy Week and Easter, all readers and servers are strongly encouraged to attend an afternoon of rehearsal and training. This will be held on Saturday, 20 March from 3:00pm in the church. We will end in time for Evening Prayer. Any apologies to the Vicar.

USE OF NAME BADGE

If you are using your name badge in church (and the Vicar is most grateful for those who are doing so as a help to him), COVID regulations require you to take this home at the end of each service and to bring it back for use at the next service you attend. Unfortunately, the name badge cannot be left in the church.

If you do not have a name badge and would like one, please let Brenda know after any service.

ROSTERS

All Covid Safe Officers, Sidespersons, Servers, Readers, Intercessors, Crucifers, Acolytes are required to let Brenda know by email before Sunday, 21 March of ANY inability / preferences to attend services in Holy Week.

Monday – Thursday 7:30pm

Good Friday – 12 noon

Easter Vigil – 8.00pm

Easter Day – 9:30am

The Roster will be completed and posted on Monday, 22 March.

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND MACO DONATIONS

St George's hopes to provide modest scholarships (ideally for one singer per part), so that younger singers can be brought to experience the joys and wonders of the Anglican musical tradition. Donations to fund such scholarships are best made through the Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation, as this enables the donations to be tax-deductible. Donations can be made via the link below:

<https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/maf-donation-page>

Please note the following:

Under 'Select the Fund you wish to donate to', select MACO

Under 'Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation Inc (MACO)', select St George's Malvern - Music Fund

ST GEORGE'S SOUND SYSTEM

McLean Sound undertook a recalibration of the sound system in the past week. Any feedback will be gratefully received after today's liturgies. We are continuing to explore a radical 'simplification' of the system and equipment. We give hearty thanks to Ron Tayles, who has looked after the current system for many years. A new team is being prepared, and will be in place when a new, more simplified system is installed.

VISIT TO BISHOPSCOURT GARDEN

During Open Gardens Victoria weekend, the garden of Bishopscourt at 20 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, the home of Archbishop Freier, will be opened to the public on 27th and 28th March from 10.00am to 4.30pm.

There will also be Devonshire teas, tours on Sat 2.00pm and Sun 11.00am; propagated plants and books on Bishopscourt for sale.

Entry \$10, Students \$6, under 18s free.

Bookings essential via TryBooking www.trybooking.com/BOVOL

The Activities Group is being advised of this opportunity and will be emailed a copy of the flyer from Bishopscourt. Anyone else requiring the flyer or wishing to be added onto the Activities Group list, please email your request to Charles Tegner - ctegner@bigpond.net.au.

MOULIN ROUGE! THE MUSICAL

Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film is now a Broadway sensation. Nominated for 14 Tony Awards® and featuring over 70 songs in a new musical extravaganza, it opens in August 2021 at Melbourne's Regent theatre.

St George's Activities Group has already been advised of this musical and we have a strong response for tickets. Those of you not already in the Activities Group are welcome to put your names forward for the quantity of tickets required. Let me know if you would like to receive a copy of the Broadway review.

Moulin Rouge the Musical is receiving rave reviews from New York and promises to have an enthusiastic following when it comes to Melbourne. I would like to have an idea as to how many of us would like to participate in a group booking of tickets (which allows a 12% discount), and whether we prefer a matinee afternoon performance on a weekday or a Saturday. (Saturday tickets are usually slightly more expensive.)

We usually select central tickets mid stalls. I do not yet have ticket prices so your interest in participating is not binding. I will let you know price details when they are to hand, and receive your confirmation. At present I just need to know numbers. *Le Moulin Rouge* was, and takes place in, an 1899 Paris nightclub. Baz Luhrmann's production will be spectacular.

Please forward expressions of interest to ctegner@bigpond.net.au
Charles Tegner

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Day off: Monday

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Brenda Williams

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Works: Saturday – Tuesday and Thursday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Bill Michie

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Elizabeth-Anne Nixon

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CHURCH OFFICE

Nisha O'Brien

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CHURCH OFFICE

If visiting the office, please observe all protocols relating to Covid 19 including signing in and sanitizing your hands.