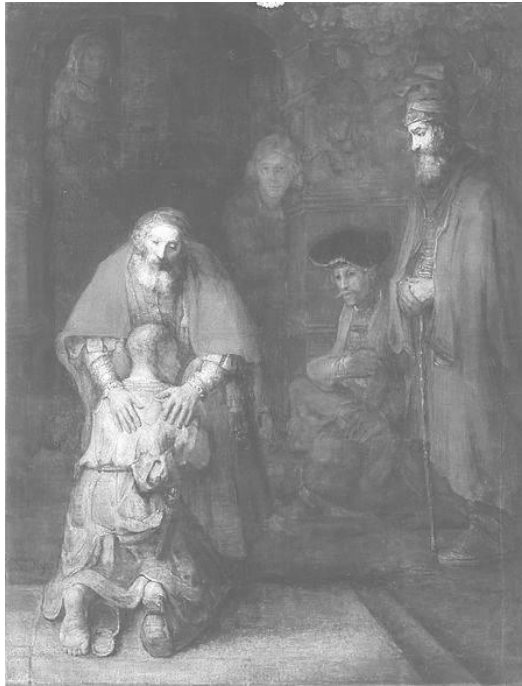




ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
31 March, 2019

Parish Link



Welcome to our worship today! Today, the mid-point of the season of Lent is traditionally known across many parts of Christendom by a variety of names: *Laetare Sunday*, *Refreshment Sunday*, or *Mothering Sunday* (predominantly in England). *Laetare* in Latin means rejoice and comes from the traditional reading for Lent 4 -Isaiah 66.10 – which starts “Rejoice O Jerusalem.” In times gone by the discipline of fasting during Lent was wide spread and it was relaxed at the mid-way point of the season – hence the name – Refreshment Sunday (with its tradition of *Simnel* cakes). I am not sure the discipline is as wide spread in these days so I would like us to continue strongly in our reflection and discipline.

Today's Gospel parable of the Prodigal Son should really be called the parable of the Prodigal Father. Like Rembrandt in the painting above, artists, poets, writers, and preachers the world over have pondered this simple tale and sought to bring it to life in a fresh way. The thing that strikes me is how prodigal the father is. The first meaning of prodigal in my dictionary is "recklessly extravagant", and it seems to me this is an apt description of the father's welcome home party for the younger son. Is there no limit to his joy we might ask? Oh, how even that question betrays our own attitude as more akin to the elder brother's than to the Father's.

Sentence

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15.21

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First Reading: Joshua 5.2-12

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.' So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the Israelites travelled for forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the Lord.. To them the Lord swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm: 32 in the *APBA* prayer book, p.252

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to

himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke, Chapter 15, beginning at verse 11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."'

For the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Welcome to the Lord's Table.
All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion
or to come forward for a blessing.

Years Mind

Iris Tiller, Patrick Robinson, Frances Joyner,
Alma Locke, Irene Watson, Anne Johnston

whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean (Abp James Richard Wong Yin Song); The Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy & People); Lifeworks (Janet Jukes, CEO); St Luke's Sydenham (Robert Koren); Holy Trinity Doncaster – 150 years since the cornerstone was laid for the original church (Bp Genieve Blackwell); St Stephen's Richmond – Commissioning service – Matt Healy (TBC) (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Inverleigh-Bannockburn-Meredith Parish, episcopal visit; Consecration and Installation of Bishop of North Queensland (Abp Phillip Freier).

The Parish: Pray for all prayer and bible study groups and for those who lead them.

The World: Pray for those who have a philosophy that upholds violence to achieve their ends that they may be led to understand the love of God and his forgiveness.

The Nation/Community: Pray for state governments and the federal government as elections are held that we may have wise and good leadership.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Daily Readings

Monday	Isaiah 65.17-21	Ps 30.8-12	John 4.43-54
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47.1-9, 12	Ps 46.1-7	John 5 1-3, 5-16
Wednesday	Isaiah 49.8-15	Ps 145.8-13	John 5.17-30
Thursday	Exodus 32.7-14	Ps 106.20-24	John 5.31-47
Friday	Wisdom 2.1, 12-22	Ps 34.15-22	John 7.1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	Jeremiah 11.18-20	Ps 7.7-12	John 7.40-52

ABM Pew Reflections

There are probably few stories that Jesus tells in the New Testament that are as moving and significant to all of us as that of the Prodigal Son. No tale illustrates God's love and forgiveness in such tender ways. I often try to place myself in the place of the prodigal son on his journey home and to feel what he must have felt, a spiritual exercise that can bring me to some grief, then imagining the joy not only of the welcome home but the reconciliation that came with it. This Lenten season we remember that we are walking that same road home to the father where we are welcomed and forgiven through Christ. Pray for reconciliation with those who we have wronged and who have wronged us; and pray that we might be as quick to show mercy and love as the father from the parable. Give thanks for the Provinces of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, and Sudan. Pray for peace between and within both countries.



*If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing **before** Thursdays or email anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com Please keep notices succinct and to the point as space is limited.*

CRAFT

It is time to start crafting for the Parish Spring Fair. If you have a craft skill and would like to contribute to the craft stall please don't be shy, speak to Barbara P 0405193122, Rosemary S or Michele M. We especially need hanging towels with crocheted tops and coat hangers with knitted covers as they are sort after items.

PRAYER GROUP TIME

We are interested in establishing a regular prayer group for our congregation. To work out a time that would be best, we are surveying everyone with various alternatives. We are not looking for names, just an indication of which time would work for most people. There is a sheet at the back of the church.

40th Anniversary WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

A remarkable event occurred on Sunday 24th February 2019. As an international flight touched down on Heathrow airport after travelling all the way from Victoria a happy couple calculated that they had made their marriage vows forty years ago! WOW! Congratulations, belatedly, to Anne and Rob Kennedy.



April 6
9.00am to 2.00pm



Helpers are very much needed for the **setup, stall minding and pack up** for the Jumble Sale.

Thursday April 4: from 1 pm onwards Setup activities

Friday April 5: from 9.30am to 5.00 pm Setup activities

Saturday April 6: 9.00am - 2.00pm Stall staff for selling
2.00pm - 5.00pm Packing up activities

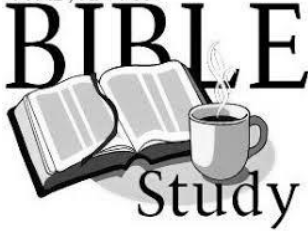
Any time you can give on any of these days will be gratefully received.
Please put your name on the list at the back of the the church or contact Hilary on 9899 7553.

MAKING PALM CROSSES April 6

Palm cross making will happen during the Jumble Sale, on Saturday, April 6. Willing stall holders will participate and any volunteers who want to come and help with the Jumble Sale or palm cross making, will be very welcome!



COME JOIN OUR



Violence to Forgiveness – God’s solution to our problem

In March our Bible study explored the ‘human problem’ as described in Genesis. While the Church commonly talks about sin as the cause of humanity’s troubles, the stories in Genesis reveal the evil of violence – how desire can lead to rivalry with one another which can

lead to violence. The Garden story, Cain and Abel, the Flood, the Tower of Babel – these stories point to violence being the source of our problem. Genesis tells us stories of families dealing with rivalry and violence – Sarah and Hagar, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers. But Genesis shows us the solution in forgiveness. It tells us that to receive forgiveness is to ‘see the face of God’. Jesus drew on these stories in his parables, describing God as a forgiving father. He taught his disciples just how crucial forgiveness is in our relationship with God – we should not even bother praying to God until we have forgiven! Violence cannot be defeated with violence – the only way to break its evil hold is to forgive.

Interested to learn more? Join our April Bible study!

BIBLE STUDY – April: The Land and its Loss

Our study of the Seven Stories of the Nonviolent Bible continues in April, looking at the importance of the land to Jewish identity and how Jesus challenged boundaries, both literal and figurative. We meet at 7.30pm in the Undercroft on Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 April. Newcomers welcome - bring your Bible and notebook. Hope to see you there!

BOR ORPHANAGE - GOOD NEWS AND BAD

Joseph has returned from Bor where he organised and supervised the building of two classrooms. The good news is the classrooms are complete, except for the windows, which are being made in Bor Town.

The bad news has just come in from James, who is in Bor Town. There was a very severe storm, that blew the roof from the first two classrooms.

We urgently need raise extra funds to repair the roof timbers and replace damaged roofing iron, as the wet season is about to start in South Sudan, and the buildings will suffer more damage if we cannot get the roof replaced.

If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the new roof, please contact Father Joseph or Margaret Dooley.

Email lokagai@hotmail.com; Margaret.dooley@bigpond.com

Mobile Joseph 0431 541 535; Margaret 0438 129 161

We would be most grateful for any assistance you can give.

If you wish, you can make a deposit directly to our orphanage bank account -

ANZ Box Hill - BSB 013 225; Account - Abaar Orphanage #280731691

Sir John Stainer's
**"The Crucifixion" A Meditation on the Sacred Passion
of Jesus Christ**

Presented by
a combined choir of St Peter's Box Hill and friends

Conductor: Rev. Derek Jones, Organist: Lewis Plumridge
Sunday 7 April, 7.00pm
St Peter's Anglican Church
Supper provided

*Singers: Please let Fr. Derek know if you would like to sing,
and your part (S.A.T.B): 0412 025 695 or email dereklizjones@gmail.com*

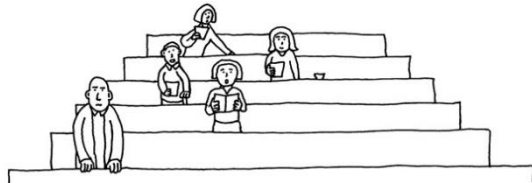
WINE and CHEESE SUPPER after 'CRUCIFIXION' PERFORMANCE

Many thanks for the donations of wine for the wine and cheese supper after the performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on April 7. If you are able to bring any food for the high tea for the choir, then please drop that off before 5.00pm.

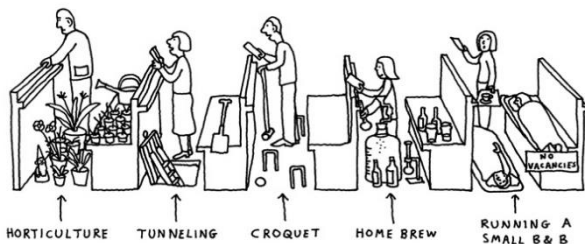
IN THE PEWS

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WHAT THE VICAR SEES →



ACTUAL ACTIVITIES →





HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY | 14th April 2019

9.30am Procession & Eucharist of the Passion

11.30am Chinese Palm Sunday service

2.00pm Dinka Service

Tuesday | 16th April 2019

7.30pm Service of Tenebrae

Wednesday | 17th April 2019

10.30am Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross Liturgy.

Maundy Thursday | 18th April 2019

7.30pm Washing of feet, celebration of the Last Supper, and stripping of the altar.

9.00pm Watch of the Passion

Good Friday | 19th April 2019

9.30am Liturgy of the Cross & Passion.

12.15am Ecumenical Procession of witness

7.30pm Chinese Good Friday Service

EASTER DAY | 21st April 2019

6.00am Lighting of New Fire, Renewal of Baptismal Vows & First Eucharist of Easter

9.30am Celebration Easter Eucharist.

11.30am Chinese Easter Service

2.00pm Dinka Easter service.

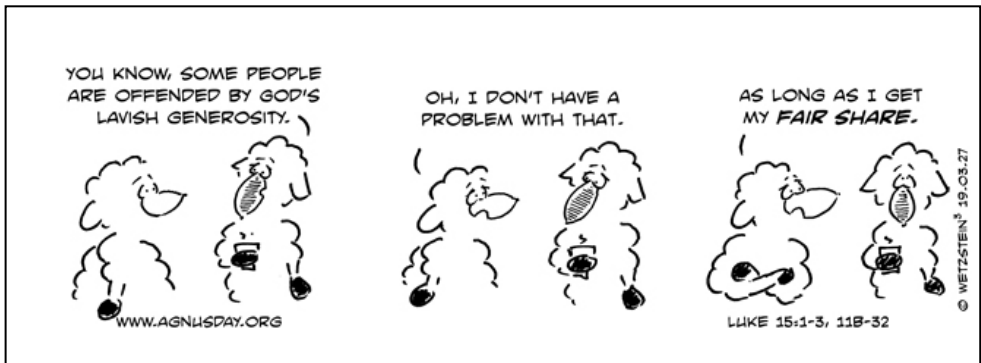


BULBS

If you ordered flowering bulbs as part of our fundraising efforts, then they are available to pick up today. Please see Hilary if you have any queries

BOOKINGS

With all the different groups using the church, including those who book the VMTA piano, it is becoming increasingly important that all uses are in the official diary which is kept in the office. Please let Cecilia in the office know if you plan any meeting, activity or session in any of the church or hall spaces so we can avoid clashes. (Please ask Cecilia first and don't just write things in the diary.)



Morning tea

Morning tea is served in the undercroft the 9.30am service. Please join us.

Mission Statement

Sharing the Good News
Telling the story afresh
Expressing God's love
Nurturing and sharing faith
Equipping to serve
Serving the community

Vision

To ensure that there continues to be a living, committed, communal Anglican presence of liturgical celebration, nurture and outreach in Box Hill.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FIRST AID KIT – Located in the office and kitchen.

TOILETS – Located in the Church Hall and in the church building through the church doors front right.

WHEELCHAIR – Located in the toilet for the disabled upstairs.

FIRE & EMERGENCY – Please make yourself aware of the nearest escape route in the event of an emergency or fire.

OH&S – Please ensure that any incidents/accidents are reported to the Vicar or Wardens and incident report completed.

This Week

SUNDAY 31.3.19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8.00am **Eucharist**, 9.30am **Eucharist**
11.30 **Mandarin Service**
2.00pm **Dinka Service**
2.30pm **Discipleship**, *hall*
7.30pm **Al Anon**, *hall*

MON 1.4.19

7.30pm **Narcotics Anonymous**, *St Aidan's*

TUES 2.4.19

- 8.30-11.30pm **Men at Work**
10.00-1.00 **Joyful Chinese**, *hall*
8.30am-12.30pm **Office open**
6.00-8.00pm **Sudanese Prayer**

WED 3.4.19

- 10.30am **Eucharist**
12.00-2.00pm **Chinese Dancing**, *hall*
2.00pm **Play Group** Set up, *hall*
6.00-7.00pm **Chinese Dancing**, *hall*
8.00pm **Choir Practice**, *u/croft*

THU 4.4.19

- 10.00-2.00pm **Office open**
9.30-11.30am **Play Group**, *hall*
6.00-8.00pm **Sudanese Prayer**, *u/croft*
12.00-9.00pm **Jumble Sale set up**, *hall*

FRI 5.4.19

- 7.30am **Eucharist**
9.00am- 9.00pm **Jumble Sale set up**, *hall*
Morning, **Dream Stitches**, *St Aidan's*
5.00-9.00pm **Chinese Prayer Group**

SAT 6.4.19

- 9.00am-2.00pm **Jumble Sale**, *hall*
2.00-5.00pm **Jumble Sale pack up**, *hall*
12.30-6.00pm **Sudanese Group**, *hall*

7.4.19

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8.00am **Eucharist**, 9.30am **Eucharist**
11.30 **Mandarin Service**
2.00pm **Dinka Service**
2.30pm **Discipleship**, *hall*
7.30pm **Al Anon**, *hall*

For the Diary

March 31

Flowering bulb orders delivered

April 6

Jumble Sale 9.00am – 2.00pm
& Palm cross making

April 7

“The Crucifixion” 7.00pm
followed by supper

May 19

Family and Children's Service
10.00am

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

April 16

7.30pm Service of Tenebrae

April 17

10.30am Holy Communion
and Stations of the Cross Liturgy.

April 18

7.30 pm Washing of feet,
celebration of the Last Supper,
and stripping of the altar.

9.00 pm Watch of the Passion

April 19

9.30am Good Friday service
12.15pm Ecumenical Procession of
Witness

April 23

6.00 am Lighting of New Fire,
Renewal of Baptismal Vows
& First Eucharist of Easter.
9.30 am Celebration Easter Eucharist.

Prayers and Readings from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Copyright Broughton Publishing 1995.

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ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

Parish Office: 9899 5122

E anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

W www.anglicansboxhill.org.au

Office Hours:

Tues 8.30am – 12.30pm

Thu 10.00am – 2.00pm

Before the service, speak to God.

During the service, let God speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

Vicar

The Reverend Shane Hübner

T 0432 681 177

E vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au

Honorary Clergy

The Rt Rev George Hearn,

T 9840 7816

Reverends:

Betty Bracken 9939 5881

John Stockdale 0418 536 284

Harry Kerr 9893 4946

Alasdair MacKinnon-Love 0438 323 059

E alasdair@mackinnonlove.com

Sudanese Ministry

Reverend Joseph Arou

T 0431 541 535

E lokagai@hotmail.com

Chinese Ministry

The Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439

Family Minister

Barbara Plumridge

T 0405 193 122

E barbara.plumridge@gmail.com

Baptism, marriage & funeral by arrangement.

Clergy are available for confession / counselling by appointment.

Roster 9.30am Service

SIDESPEOPLE	Today 31/3/19 Ted G, Noel W, Eric S W	Next week 7/4/19 Rob K, Phil D, Dianne A W
SERVERS	Today 31/3/19 Sophia E, Kim C	Next week 7/4/19 Sophia E, Michele M
READERS	Today 31/3/19 Rosemary S, Jan G (subs arranged)	Next week 7/4/19 Charles, B, Margaret D
INTERCESSOR	Today 31/3/19 Janet H	Next week 7/4/19 Sophia E
MORNING TEA	Today 31/3/19 Cecilia M, Helen J, Lyn B	Next week 7/4/19 Elizabeth B M, Lillian L, Lyn B, Gwen F