



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL
Fourth Sunday in Lent
22 March, 2020

Parish Link

Our Vicar writes...

Welcome to our worship today! Welcome to our church being without power today as United Energy do vital work in our area. As we gather as God's people here in Box Hill we continue to face challenging and interesting times for our church and for the world. It is my intention that our Sunday and week-day public worship will continue for as long as we are permitted. All services will take place in the main church as to comply with social distancing requirements. Communion will be in one kind only. All other church ministries such as Mothers' Union; Men's Breakfast; Playgroup; Saturday School; and Dream Stitches are closed until further notice. The Book stall (4/4) and the Quiz Night (24/4) have been cancelled. The proposed film afternoon on Holy Saturday (11/4) has also been cancelled.

Services in the lead up to Easter have been affected with services on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights of Holy Week (6, 7, 8 April) cancelled. The Maundy Thursday evening service will happen but with no foot washing component. While our Good Friday service (9.30am) will continue there is now no ecumenical 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday. Easter Day services will continue as planned. Let us all continue to pray for a resolution to this crisis.

There is so much in this Gospel passage today. In the story of the man who was born blind there is the question "who sinned?" That's our natural human response, isn't it, even as we face today's crisis? We want to know who we can blame, who is at fault, when we see suffering. We don't like to admit that people might experience suffering not because of a sin committed. Because Jesus rejects the entire premise of the question! There is no relationship between the man's condition and his sinfulness, Jesus says. God does not make people sick in order to punish them for wrongdoing. To step away from our brother or sister's suffering because we assume it's divinely ordained, or in some way their fault, or not our problem is not righteous. It's reprehensible.

A Prayer in time of Epidemic Disease:

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus epidemic. To people who are sick, bring healing. To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring comfort and companionship. Work with medical staff as they care for the sick, and protect them from harm. Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure. To public health authorities, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties. When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit, and kindness to neighbours and strangers. Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together, teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us. Amen

Sentence

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.' John 8.12

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16.1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm:23 in the *APBA* prayer book, p.243

Second Reading: Ephesians 5.8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John, Chapter 9, verses 1-9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for

the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

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

Years Mind

Betty Scott, Don Berkeley, Marjory Evans, Geoffrey Beaumont, Haig Siebel, Isabel Murray, "Peg" Eadon, Charmain Bryden-Brown, Kathleen Hoare

whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Abp Revd Paul Kwong); Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander people of Australia (Torres Strait Islander Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Melbourne (Heather Patacca); Parish of St Thomas', Langwarrin w. St Peter's, Pearcedale (James Connor); Anglican Parish of Croydon Hills and Wonga Park – Pastoral Service (Bp Paul Barker); St George's Ivanhoe East – Pastoral Visit (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Shelford Grammar School – Commissioning School Principal (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Parish of St Eanswythe's, Altona w. St Clements's, Laverton – Maori Service (Bp Kate Prowd)

The Parish: Pray for those in our parish who feel isolated and have limited resources to cope with this epidemic. Give thanks for those who are willing to help.

The World: Pray for world leaders, scientists and researchers as they work to find solutions to the coronavirus.

The Nation/Community: Pray for calm and steadfastness in those responsible for decision-making and in our response to this unfolding health crisis.

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.**

Welcome to the Lord's Table.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion
or to come forward for a blessing.

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 5.1-16
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



*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.*

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Sessions for this Lenten study: Thursdays 7.30pm or Saturdays 10.00am.

PALM CROSS MAKING

To get ready for Palm Sunday we will be making our own crosses again. Come along to the office on Thursday, April 2 to help make the crosses. Cake and coffee available to sustain you! Good anti-virus practices will be adhered to. No experience necessary. **Time: 1.30pm.** All welcome.

MOTHERS' UNION MEETING POSTPONEMENT

The next MU meeting will be postponed until a more propitious time. See Jan for more information.

CHURCH SERVICES

For the present, all services will continue,
and be held in the main church and **not** in the chapel.
This includes those on Wednesdays and Fridays.

RAFFLE

Jen Walker has woven another of her wonderful shawls, this time in shades of aubergine and purple. Proceeds are for bushfire relief.

Can you support this by buying a raffle ticket? 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. Don't miss your chance at winning one of these very popular shawls!

DONATIONS OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS

The current run on supermarkets has meant that some of our families are very short of groceries. With lack of transport and small children to care for they cannot get to shops early and don't have the means to buy in bulk. It would be really appreciated if any of the following supplies could be donated:

long-life or powdered milk, breakfast cereal, rice, pasta, toilet paper.

RECYCLING TO HELP CHARITIES

Don't forget that ring pulls from cans can be saved and used for various charitable projects. Also, Jan has now found an outlet for plastic bottle tops and corks. Please see Jan if you can help with this.

There will be **no Morning tea**
from today until circumstances change.

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

TODAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

SUN 22.3.20

8.00am **Eucharist**, 9.30am **Eucharist**

11.30 **Mandarin Service**

2.00pm **Dinka Service**

7.30pm Al Anon, *hall*

MON 23.3.20

Tai Chi, *hall POSTPONED*

2.00-3.30pm **Study group**, *Laburnum*

7.30pm Narcotics Anonymous, *St Aidan's*

TUES 24.3.20

8.30-11.30pm **Men at Work**

Joyful Chinese, *POSTPONED*

8.30am-12.30pm **Office open**

6.00-8.00pm **Sudanese Prayer**

WED 25.3.20

Wellways Tai Chi, *hall POSTPONED*

12-2.00, 6-7.00pm **Chinese Dancing**, *hall*

Play Group set up, *POSTPONED*

8.00pm **Choir Practice**, *u/croft*

THU 26.3.20

10.00-2.00pm **Office open**

Play Group, *hall POSTPONED*

6.00-8.00pm **Sudanese Prayer**, *u/croft*

7.30pm **Lent Study Group**, *u/croft*

Crossways Classes, *hall POSTPONED*

FRI 27.3.20

7.30am **Eucharist**

5.00-9.00pm **Chinese Prayer Group**

SAT 28.3.20

Saturday School, *hall POSTPONED*

10.00am **Lent Study Group**, *office*

SUN 29.3.20

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8.00am **Eucharist**, 9.30am **Eucharist**

11.30 **Mandarin Service**

2.00pm **Dinka Service**

7.30pm Al Anon, *hall*

For the Diary

March 26

Lent Study Group continues

Thurs 7.30pm, *u'croft*

or

March 28

Sat 10.00am, *office*

March 28

12 noon Parish Staff Meeting, *office*

April 5-12

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Celebration of Last Supper

9.00pm Watch

Good Friday, April 10

9.30am Eucharist

Easter Day, April 12

6.00am Service of Light

9.30am Eucharist

POSTPONED April 24
Quiz Night, *hall*

May 3

Songs of Praise

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

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ST PETER'S

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Tues 8.30am – 12.30pm

Thu 10.00am – 2.00pm

Wardens:

Margaret Dooley 0438 129 161

Sophia Errey 9878 6297

Garry Plumridge 9898 5193

Baptism, marriage & funeral by arrangement. Clergy are available for confession / counselling by appointment.

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:

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Chinese Ministry

The Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439

Family Minister

Barbara Plumridge

T 0405 193 122

E barbara.plumridge@gmail.com

Roster for 9.30am Service

SIDESPEOPLE	Today 22/3/20 Ted G, Judy J, Gwen McD W	Next week 29/3/20 Noel W, Martin F, Dianne A W
SERVERS	Today 22/3/20 Elizabeth B, Sophia E	Next week 29/3/20 Sophia E, Kim C
READERS	Today 22/3/20 Martin F, Harry K	Next week 29/3/20 Conrad H, Lewis P
INTERCESSOR	Today 22/3/20 Janet H	Next week 29/3/20 Elizabeth B
COUNTING	Today 22/3/20 Margaret R, Charles B	Next week 29/3/20 Elizabeth B, Michele M
MORNING TEA	<i>POSTPONED</i> <i>until further notice</i>	<i>POSTPONED</i> <i>until further notice</i>