



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL
Second Sunday of Easter
19 April, 2020

Parish Link

Our Vicar writes...

Today is traditionally known as **LOW SUNDAY**; maybe an apt title for this Sunday as many continue with a flat feeling as we all struggle to live amidst COVID-19. Yet we continue our journey as 'Resurrection People.' May I suggest that we hold fast to this call to live as God's people – full of joy, life and forgiveness! Eugene Peterson's translation of Jesus' words in today's Gospel text from John provides a very different way of seeing the gift of forgiveness and grace: "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?" One scholar has written that "We cannot keep the Spirit to ourselves. We are gifted with it for the sake of others. God gives the church the spiritual gift of resurrection life so that the church will bring it to bear on the world." It sounds as if a personal, private faith is not what Jesus intends for us, but instead he wants a Spirit-filled church to be his gift to the world. Whenever we're afraid and hiding out, all locked up, God comes to us in the midst of our fear and says, "Peace be with you." Whatever doubts churn in our minds, whatever sins trouble our consciences, whatever pain and worry bind us up, whatever walls we have put up or doors we have locked securely, God comes to us and says, "Peace be with you." Whatever hunger and need we feel deep in our souls, God calls us to the table, feeds us well, and sends us out into the world to be justice and peace, salt and light, hope for the world. We can do it, if we keep our eyes open, our minds limber, and our hearts soft and willing to love. As God sent Jesus, God sends us, this day.

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.

Sentence

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1.3

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt: may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First Reading: Acts 2.14a, 2.22-32

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ²² 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." ²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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

Psalm: 16

- ¹ Preserve me, O God:
for in you have I taken refuge.
- ² I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:
and all my good depends on you.
- ³ As for those who are held holy on the earth:
the other gods in whom people delight,
- ⁴ Though the idols are many that they run after:
their offerings of blood I will not offer,
nor take their name upon my lips.
- ⁵ The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:
you hold my lot in your hands.
- ⁶ The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:
and a fair land is my possession.
- ⁷ I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
at night also he has instructed my heart.
- ⁸ I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- ¹⁰ For you will not give me over to the power of death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You will show me the path of life:
in your presence is the fulness of joy,
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1.1-12

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him,

you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹ inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John, Chapter 20, verses 19-31

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the

Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Years Mind

Jean Senior, Mary Lines, Nancy Flowers, Doug Mitchell

whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: Church of Ireland; Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Hospital Chaplaincy (Stephen Delbridge, Co-ordinator & Chaplains); Parish of Oakleigh - Holy Trinity & Emmanuel (Colleen Arnold-Moore, Jennifer Poulter).

The Parish: Give thanks for our clergy and those working to keep our parish as an Anglican presence in Box Hill and reminding us of the love of God.

The World: Pray for people in those countries without sufficient medical care and support for those who become ill with the coronavirus.

The Nation: Pray for the homeless, the mentally ill and those afraid and alone at this time.

Names of those in our parish who need our prayer:

Charles Crooks who is now receiving palliative care. **Miriam, Dianne, Kent, Lorraine, Neville, Nancy, Kate, Russ, Betty, Jessie, Don, Jim, Alma, Muriel, Faye, Eileen, Nola, Margaret.**

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer in time of an epidemic

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

Daily Readings

Monday	Acts 4.23-31	Ps 2.1-8	John 3.1-8
Tuesday	Acts 4.32-37	Ps 93	John 3.7-15
Wednesday	Acts 5.17-26	Ps 34.1-8	John 3.16-21
Thursday	Acts 5.27-33	Ps 34.11-18	John 3.31-36
Friday	Acts 5.34-42	Ps 27.1-5	John 6.1-15
Saturday	Acts 6.1-7	Ps 33.17-21	John 6.16-21

ABM Pew Reflections

Today we read of doubting Thomas who was really a person looking for proof, but lately we'll have seen all sorts of people who like to doubt experts and give their own 'wisdom' as if it were true. No, eating lemons and washing your hands in vodka *won't* protect you from Covid-19. Just as we should listen to experts, we should listen to Jesus who is Truth himself. Pray for all those who are duped by fake news, or false information, especially in regard to health. May lying lips be stilled (Ps 31.18) and falsehood-typing fingers be stopped. Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*.



*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*

OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE

Fr Shane has now set up many resources through YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs6lXNA9u_DOrgp0pXITUQw

About 50 people watched our Easter service and more were able to see the recording later. Tune in this Sunday!



*If you do have an **email but haven't received information through it, then please email the office** so we can update our records and make sure you do receive all our mail.*

SHARING

- Adelaide's Archbishop Geoffrey Smith has been elected Australia's new Primate.
- [The Melbourne Anglican \(TMA\) link](#)
- *From Margaret Rockow...* Congratulations to Kim Cornish & Cecilia Joyner on their 30th Wedding Anniversary ♡
*Approximately...*262,800 hours, 10,950 days, 1,565 weeks & 360 months. (Kim might like to check the calculations.....!??)
- Margaret Dooley is still making jam and selling it at Bedford Heights. See her notice in the Link if you want some.
- Thanks to all those who have dropped off their Weekly Giving envelopes to the Office.

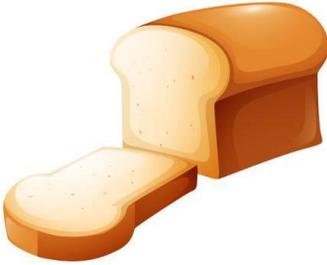
DONATIONS OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Basic grocery items can still be donated on a Saturday morning to the Undercroft. Father Alasdair is co-ordinating this effort. **If you can't get food to the hall but still want to donate, let the Vicar know and we can pick up items from your home.**

INTERCESSIONS

Intercessions are being prepared each week by the intercessors and being included in the Sunday service available on the website. If you would like any people to be included in the list of names to be prayed for, then please give those names to Fr Shane or Cecilia in the office by Thursday.

BREAD DELIVERY



St Peter's is still receiving deliveries of bread, and as usual, some weeks there is more bread than others. If you would like to pick some up, ring Alasdair on Saturday mornings to find out if any is available and then come over to St Peter's to get the bread. Social distancing rules, of course, will apply. 0438 323 059

WEEKLY GIVING

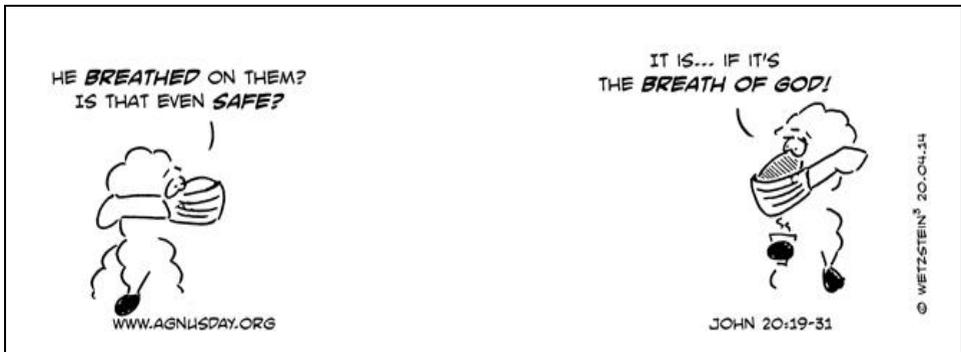
It is important that we continue with our planned weekly giving to support St Peter's. One way to do so is to give through direct payment to our parish bank account.

Acc Name: Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Acc Number: 2971 18084, **BSB** 013225

Reference: WFO (to help our Treasurer know what it is for)

If you do not want to use direct payment, then you can drop off your envelopes to the Parish Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays or at a time that suits you by arrangement with the Vicar. Or post a cheque.



HOME PRODUCE

In preparation for the (cancelled) Book Fair, and in a time of isolation, Hilary and I have been spending a little time making home produce as people have given us fruit. I have some stocks of Fig jam, Plum & Raspberry jam, Quince jelly, Cointreau Orange marmalade, Kashmir chutney and spicy Plum sauce and Hilary has plum jam, strawberry jams, beetroot relish, zucchini relish. If anyone would like to buy some I will try to find some way to get it to you.

I can also make other berry jams (blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, mixed berry) and lemon butter - while my stock of frozen lemon juice lasts. Let me know if you would like some home-made jam or marmalade to brighten your life in grim times.

I can be contacted by email margaret.dooley@bigpond.com; or by phone 0438 129 161.



"The actual title of my sermon, Ms. Barns, is
'Are you going to hell?'"

This Week

SUN 19.4.20

Second Sunday of **EASTER**

(Go to our website for services and reflections.)

MON 20.4.20

TUES 21.4.20

Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, d.1109

8.30am-12.30pm **Office open**

WED 22.4.20

THU 23.4.20

George, martyr d.c.303

10.00-2.00pm **Office open**

FRI 24.4.20

SAT 25.4.20

ANZAC Day

SUN 26.4.20

Third Sunday of **EASTER**

Mark, evangelist and martyr



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Honorary Clergy

The Rt Rev George Hearn,

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Reverends:

Betty Bracken 9939 5881

John Stockdale 0418 536 284

Harry Kerr 9893 4946

Alasdair MacKinnon-Love

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Chinese Ministry

The Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439

Family Minister

Barbara Plumridge

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ST PETER'S

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Office Hours:

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.

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