

Prayer for Holy Week:

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire



WEEK ENDING 10 APRIL 2020

I am very grateful to God for your ministry, creativity, resilience and faithfulness in what has been a very different Lent and Holy Week. I have been re-reading Sarah Bachelard's *Experiencing God in a Time of Crisis*. As she writes, the Christian story of the Triduum testifies that the journey through crisis is possible; naming the reality that sustains us in and through it. In doing so, it creates the faith required to continue with the journey and provides a powerful series of images: the surrender of Friday, the waiting of Saturday and the gift of Sunday. My prayer is that this Easter will be a very special opportunity to be inspired afresh by the Story of the Great Three Days.

I hope this Easter is a time to pause in all you are doing. As we grieve the loss of gathering in our church buildings, it will still be a time to reflect more deeply on the Easter Story with God, with those you live with and with others as you are able.

*Please keep sending your stories to inspire...*  
**+Genieve**



## POP-UP PRAYERS

### *St Mary's Melbourne North*

The Reverend Jan Joustra shares that the Parish has placed a temporary shrine on the corner of Howard and Queensberry Streets, where people can safely say a prayer as they pass by. Being so close to the hospital we have many hospital staff passing by each day as well as the families of those in hospital. The shrine is there to let them know they are being prayed for as well as providing a sacred space where they also can offer a prayer.

## SUBSCRIBERS WANTED!

### *St Matthias Richmond North*

YouTube imposed new restrictions on users:

*"To be able to live stream on mobile, your channel will need to have at least **1,000** subscribers."*

As a family size church, St Matthias needs your help to invite your friends to [click here](#) to subscribe to our channel to meet the requirement. The truth is, to invite people to subscribe to the Church's YouTube channel is much easier than to invite people to go to church. Never underestimate the power of social media, why not use it for the kingdom of God! Let's do it!

## CONNECTING ON NEW LEVELS

### *Inner West Church*

The Reverend Pete Greenwood shares a few things the Parish is doing right now; in a week's time, they are running an online Alpha course. Lots of interest, including some people from interstate and overseas! Some of the Parish parents are planning on running a kid's half-hour on Zoom, aimed at supporting families both in and outside the church. Rev'd Pete also shares that a plan is in the works to match up church members with the residents of a local nursing home for them to call or Zoom in to have a chat to help with loneliness. Rev'd Pete is also running a fortnightly pastoral care Zoom session with members from a martial arts academy; sharing how they're going, reading a psalm, short reflection & prayer.



## CONNECTING WITH OUR YOUNG ADULTS

### *St Bartholomew's Burnley & St Stephen's Richmond*

The Reverend Dr Wendy Crouch shares with us that; over the last six months a Young Adults group (YARA - Young Adults Richmond Anglicans) has been forming in the two Richmond parishes of St Bartholomew's and St Stephen's. Initially some started to come to the 5pm Sunday night Emmaus Eucharist. This then developed into a once a month pub meal after the service. There are now 8- 9 in the 20-30 age group who attend regularly. They have a variety of faith backgrounds. For the last 6 weeks they have been watching then discussing the movie "The Shack" with the aid of a study guide. The film was suggested by one of the group who was very keen to initiate and facilitate - with Rev'd Wendy as the support person. It has been a wonderful challenge for Rev'd Wendy to explore with them some deep theological issues that come up in relation to their probing questions. Having started meeting at the beginning of Lent in one of their homes, they needed to continue with Zoom for the last two weeks of the course. They will resume another film and study course after Easter. In addition to the Zoom meetings they have started a YARA WhatsApp group and Facebook page. Many delightful, humorous, poetic and crazy things are posted. These keep the group connected with each other at a time that can be particularly difficult for younger adults who have had their usually busy social and work lifestyles curtailed.

### *St Peter's Eastern Hill*

Reverend Hugh Kempster shares with us the data from recent Parish services via YouTube.

#### Top videos

Last 28 days · Watch time (minutes)

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 11am Mass - Lent 5 (2020)             | 4,020 |
| 11am Mass - Palm Sunday 2020          | 3,532 |
| COVID-19 Public Shutdown    Fr. ...   | 271   |
| St. Peter's Day Patronal Mass    E... | 212   |
| Thought for the Day 01/4/20: Ala...   | 149   |

Attendance at the church building is usually 70 to 80 parishioners each week.

So these views are amazing!

Click [here](#) to view or subscribe to the YouTube Channel.

## WEBINAR ON FAMILY VIOLENCE & COVID-19

preventing  
violence  
against  
women  
program

People experiencing family violence can be exposed to additional risks in times of crisis like COVID-19. Staying at home is not safe for many women in our community, including our churches. At a time of self-isolation and distancing, what is the impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing family Violence? How can we provide pastoral care at this time? And how can we do this safely for those living with an abusive partner?

Join the Preventing Violence Against Women Program on Wednesday 15 April from 2:30-3:30pm for a free webinar via Zoom to unpack these questions with experts in family violence and pastoral care.

To sign up for this webinar, [click here](#) and Robyn Boosey will send you an Invitation.