



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17 May, 2020

Parish Link

Our Vicar writes...

Welcome to our worship today. What a wonderful truth revealed in today's Gospel – that we are not orphaned! We are not left alone no matter how often it feels that God is not around – that God is absent and we are merely 'whispering to ourselves in the dark'. We are not orphans; we are "Easter people". A church community full of 'Easter people' will be a place where grieving or searching souls can be comforted, encouraged, and strengthened – a community where the risen and ascended Christ and his heavenly Father are made known through our life together in the Spirit, and from which we are sent out with good news for all the world. Two verses later in John's Gospel we hear: "and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (John 14:23). Not visit. Not pass through from time to time. Not send a postcard. 'We will come to them and make our home with them' - John only uses the word 'home' twice in his gospel, both times around the supper table. Is it any wonder that our church home has a table at its centre, not just architecturally but at the heart of our sacramental life together? As one of my favourite writers Barbara Taylor says, "This home is not a temporary place but a permanent one, an abode large enough to accommodate the love that binds him to God on one hand and binds him to us on the other, a giant heart of a place with room enough for everyone whom love unites. It is John's idea of heaven to move in with the God who has moved in with us...." Does our church, and the Anglican Church as a whole, look like "a giant heart of a place with room enough for everyone whom love unites"? Let us act to make it so!

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

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'
John 14.23

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding: pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading: Acts 17.22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." ²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

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

Psalm: 66.7-19

⁷ O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,

- 8 Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.**
- ⁹ For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.**
- ¹¹ You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
- 12 I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:
and I will pay you my vows,**
- ¹³ The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.
- 14 I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.**
- ¹⁵ Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.
- 16 I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.**
- ¹⁷ If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.
- 18 But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**
- ¹⁹ Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.8-22

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For ‘Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’ ¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;

¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John, Chapter 14, verses 15-21

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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

Years Mind

Herbert Burkitt, Eleanor Oliver, Betty Boardman,
Ellis Albrecht, Gordon Baensch, Florence Gale, Frederick Porter

whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: Anglican Church of Korea (Abp Revd Moses Nagjun Yoo); Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy & People); Diocesan Risk Management and Insurance (Matthew Wilson, Manager); St Mary's Sunbury (Gavin Ward, Catherine Fisher, Matthew Browne).

The Parish: Give thanks for our weekly services on the internet and for all the pastoral activities of the clergy.

The World: Pray at this time for co-operation and friendship between the nations of the world when we are all so cut off.

The Nation: Pray for our school-aged children who may be struggling at this time and for teachers.

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, Gwen, Russ, Betty, Jessie, Don, Jim, Alma, Muriel, Faye, Eileen, Nola, Margaret.

Prayer of the Week

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and 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 16.11-15	Ps 149	John 15.26-16.4
Tuesday	Acts 16.22-34	Ps 138	John 16.5-11
Wednesday	Acts 17.15, 22-18.1	Ps 148.7-15	John 16.12-15
Thursday	Acts 1.1-11	Ps 47	Matthew 28.16-20
Friday	Acts 18.9-18	Ps 51	John 16.20-23
Saturday	Acts 18.23-28	Ps 54	John 16.23-28

ABM Pew Reflections

As the song says, *Love changes everything*. In this time of quietness and confinement, how might we express love for others? How about by praying for doctors and nurses as they deal with those affected by Corvid-19? How about calling someone you know who is elderly and shut in? How about doing shopping for someone who cannot do it easily themselves? In these difficult times, *What the world needs now is love, sweet love*, as another song says.



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



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

If you are sending any letters or cards to the office, it is advisable to use the post box address as mail can get very wet in the letter box! The address to use is: **St Peter's Anglican Church, P.O. Box 1199, Box Hill, 3128**



DONATIONS OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Basic grocery items can still be donated on a Saturday morning to the Undercroft (or left in the office during the week). Thanks to Father Alasdair who is co-ordinating this effort.



Drop off time: 10.00-11.00am

Items required: rice, pasta, pasta sauce, full-cream milk, flour, breakfast cereal.

OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE

Fr Shane has now set up many resources through YouTube.

[Sunday morning service 17.05.20 here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMtRGOZACfM) (Control and click)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMtRGOZACfM>

INTERCESSIONS

If you would like any people to be included in the **list of names to be prayed for**, then please email or phone through those names to Fr Shane or Cecilia in the office by Thursday.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

I was very busy in early January purchasing all the stationery items while on special for the next Samaritan's Purse collections later this year. I have made up lots of 'Book bags' to be ready to go. I have \$10 starter bags if you would like to purchase one early. Look out for specials when the shops are all open again, looking for shorts, T-shirts and other clothing to add to your bags. There will be a notice when boxes are available.

Jan Gunst, Co-ordinator Samaritan's Purse



SAD NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union Central Charity, known as Mary Sumner House, our worldwide headquarters, is facing an unexpected shortfall of some £1 million this year courtesy of the coronavirus. Senior staff have taken immediate salary reductions and others have taken leave. "The House" was built just over 100 years ago through donations from individual members giving one penny per month.

In many ways Mary Sumner House is not just a building but the heart of the Mothers' Union, where help for women and families is co-ordinated worldwide.

From a letter from Sharon Harper, MU World Wide Press: "If individual members are able to donate, say \$10 or even more, it will be a great help". Thanks to generous donations from MU members at our branch here, we have raised \$445. If any parishioners wish to donate, please contact Jan Gunst, local MU leader: 9890 6528.

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 (0438 323 059) 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.

Left over bread will be kept in the Office for collection until Tuesdays.



PUZZLING...

SOLUTION TO FINDING SIXTEEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

I once made a re**MARK** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fLUKE**). It kept people **LOOKING So** hard for the **fACTS** and for others it was a **REVELATION**. Some were in a **JAM, ES**pecially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the **tRUTH** finally struck home to **NUMBERS** of readers. To others it was a real **JOB**. We want it to be **A MOST** fascinating few moments for you. **YES, THERE** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **JUDGES** to help them. I will quickly **admiT IT US**ually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **LAMENTATIONS** when it is found. A little lady says **sHE BREWS** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compETE**. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

Here is a new puzzle:

Some words of wisdom from the book of Proverbs for you to decode.

AD NMK WUUR UH OBUCKBWL TK BKEF:

"TALK LOKKYM AL BEBKB EDF PUBK

CEGSEWGK NMED QUGF EDF BSWAKL." (20:15, DGN)

EGLU, "LUPK OKUOGK PERK YSNNADQ

BKPEBRL, WSN NMK TUBFL UH NMK TALK

WBADQ MKEGADQ." (12:18, DGN)

Tips

- *The most commonly used letter in the English language is E. All the letters of the alphabet in order from most to least frequent are: E, T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D, L, U, C, M, P, F, Y, W, G, B, V, K, J, X, Z, Q.*
- *Usually, the only one-letter words are I or a. (Rarely, o is a word.)*
- *An apostrophe indicates either a contraction (don't, I'll, I'm, it's) or a possessive noun (Fred's, the family's)*

TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

A large, well built man visited the vicarage and asked to see the vicar's wife, who was well known for her charity.

As he spoke to her he said in a voice breaking with emotion, 'I'd like to draw your attention to the terrible plight of a poor family in this district. The father is dead, the mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are starving. They are about to be turned out into the cold streets unless someone pays their £400 rent arrears.'

'How frightful!' exclaimed the vicar's wife. 'May I ask who you are?'

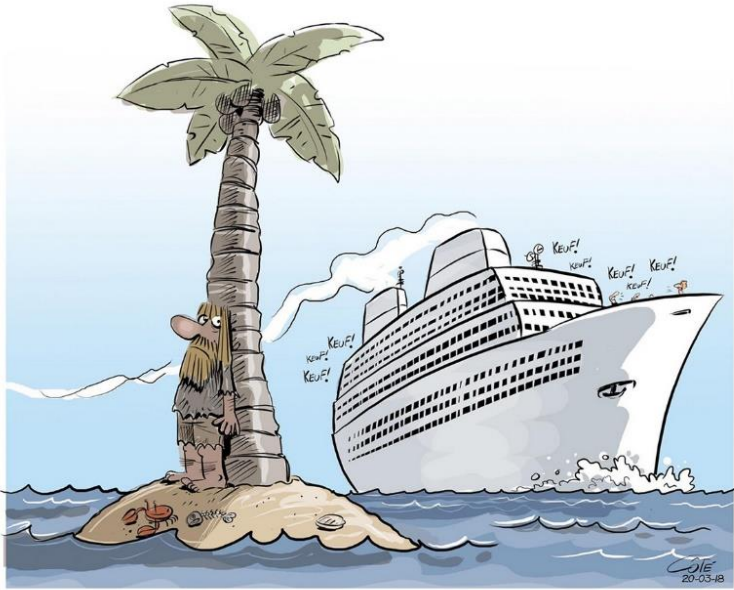
The enormous visitor wiped his eyes with his handkerchief and wailed, 'I'm their landlord.'

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

From a 3-year-old:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."



This Week

SUN 17.5.20

Sixth Sunday of **EASTER**

(Go to our website for services and reflections.)

MON 18.5.20

TUES 19.5.20

Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury (d.988)

8.30am-12.30pm **Office open**

WED 20.5.20

THU 21.5.20

Ascension Day

10.00-2.00pm **Office open**

FRI 22.5.20

SAT 23.5.20

Food drop off and bread delivery

SUN 24.5.20

Seventh Sunday of **EASTER**



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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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