



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
8 November, 2020

Parish Link

The Vicar writes...

Welcome to our online worship today. The Gospel passage from Matthew about the parable of the ten wise and foolish bridesmaids is part of our church's lectionary readings about the end times – traditionally in the four or so weeks before Advent. The theme in these weeks is about being prepared and at times the tone of the stories seems harsh. But however much we may be anxious about a dramatic end time, our faith reminds us of how often our Scriptures say, "Do not fear," and then challenges us to work here, on earth, for the bright day of God's reign in its fullness, which is glimpsed in every act, every moment of compassion, sharing, and justice. Keeping faith is not easy. But we might also approach these stories with gratitude, which is always fitting, not just in November, for the wisdom they offer and the prudence they encourage. Jesus told us how to live according to the values and vision of the Reign of God, and loving God and our neighbour expresses the heart of his message. Loving God will inevitably lead us to worship God rather than idolise the false gods of modern culture. Loving our neighbour will lead us to greater compassion and a firm commitment to justice, to making this a different and better world for all of God's children. However, this kind of living isn't sitting around and waiting; it's active and fully engaged in the present moment, as we trust in a future that is in God's hands, even if the timing of that future is unknown to 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.



SUNDAY SERVICE (Control and click) [here](#)

OR GO TO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBNkdNSBpyl&feature=youtu.be>

Sentence

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Matthew 24.42, 44

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading: Joshua 24.1-3a, 24.14-25

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; ¹⁴ 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' ¹⁶ Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.' ¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord!' ²² Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' ²³ He said, 'Then put away

the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.’²⁴ The people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Psalm: 78.1-7

¹ Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

² **For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.**

³ What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,

⁴ **We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works.**

⁵ He established a law in Jacob and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

⁶ **That future generations might know, and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;**

⁷ So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4.9-18

⁹ Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, ¹¹ to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, ¹² so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 1-13

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹ 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹ But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹² But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Hymn

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the Church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Preaching Christ, and not our customs,
let us build a bridge of care,
joining hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we will show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we will live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens

when a storm is past and gone,
so may we reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

Years Mind

Ruby Chang, Bill Burton and Christopher Hill
whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: Pray for the Church in the Province of the West Indies (Bp Howard Gregor); Diocese of Rockhampton (Bp-elect Peter Grice, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of The Yarra (Dave Fuller); St Mark's Reservoir West (Hamish Erskine-Fowler); Rowville & Ferntree Gully – visit (Bishop Paul Barker); Diocesan service at Moorabbin (Bishop Paul Barker); St Paul's Caulfield North – visit (Bp Genieve Blackwell); St Andrew's Corio – visit (Bishop Kate Prowd).

The Parish: Pray for all our parishioners and clergy as we approach our new church year.

The World: Pray for the government and people of the United States.

The Nation: Pray for all the unemployed and those struggling with mental health.

Names of those in our parish who need our prayer:

Emma, Eric and Bev, Miriam, Phil and Sandra, Joan, Alistair, Freya, John, Lauren, Mark, Sue, Christine, Nola, Lorraine, June, Gayle, Nigel, Nancy, Kate, Russ, Betty, Jessie, Don, Jim, Alma, Muriel, Faye, Eileen, Nola W, Margaret, Bishop George, Fr. Philip Newman, Reverend Betty, John W, Ron, Pam, Colin, Roderick and Wendy.

Prayer of the Week

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in time of a pandemic

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic. 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	Titus 1.1-9	Ps 24.1-6	Luke 17.1-6
Tuesday	Titus 2.1-8, 11-14	Ps 37.27-35	Luke 17.7-10
Wednesday	Titus 3.1-7	Ps 23	Luke 17.11-19
Thursday	Philemon 7-20	Ps 146.5-10	Luke 17.20-25
Friday	2 John 4-9	Ps 119.1-8	Luke 17.26-37
Saturday	3 John 5-8	Ps 112	Luke 18.1-8



*If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing **before** Thursdays or email the Vicar or cecilia_joyner@hotmail.com*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for the Anglican Parish of Box Hill will be held on **29th November at 1.00pm**. Details of how the meeting will be run this year will be available closer to the time.

- November 8** Last date for revisions to the Electoral Roll.
- November 12** **All reports** to be sent to the parish email or given to the Vicar.
- November 20** **All nominations** for positions on Parish Council and others must be received by this date. (Forms can be obtained from the Vicar or parish office.)
- November 22** Reports, agenda and other meeting information will be available online.
- November 29** **Parish AGM** held at 1.00pm (location TBA)
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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

2 BILLION KILOMETRES TO SAFETY

This is a fundraising initiative from UNHCR – 2 billion is the estimated number of kilometres refugees have walked to reach safety.

Sophia will aim to walk 238 km, the distance for Hadeel and her family to walk, fleeing Syria to escape the encroaching war with her husband and four children – 5, 4 and 2 year old twins, crossing over into Iraq and reaching a refugee camp there. The goal, if possible, is achieving donations of \$700.

Donations and/or encouragement most welcome!

Help Sophia raise money for refugees. The website to find out more and for donations is <https://stepwithrefugees.org.au/sophia-errey>

The logo features a stylized red wine glass with a white swirl inside, positioned to the left of the text. The word "WINE" is in a grey, serif font, and "FUNDRAISING" is in a larger, red, serif font.

WINE FUNDRAISING

Order from Prospect wines in Nunawading as part of our wine fundraiser. **Last orders at the end of November.** Please contact Hilary with any queries: 0400 635 600 or cchrb@hotmail.com

Hilary apologises to all but **there is a \$6 delivery charge for the wine and other orders.** Prospect deliveries in the Melbourne Metro area which appears to be a usual fee.

- All orders are to be in **packs of six or multiples of six.** However, anyone who does not need six items can piggyback onto someone else's order, let me know so we can coordinate this.
- Anyone who orders twice will receive a free 375 ml bottle of Rutherglen Muscat and all orders are entered into a raffle free of charge for mystery prizes.

HOW TO ORDER:

1. ORDER ONLINE at Prospect Wines [here](#)
2. Email Cecilia for a copy of the order form anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com. Discuss forms and cheque payment with Hilary.
Direct payment: Frivilla Pty Ltd, BSB 633108, Acc. No: 118382969
3. Pick up a form from the U'croft on Sat mornings during the Food Bank collection and proceed as above.
Questions? Talk to Hilary 0400 635 600 or cchrb@hotmail.com

BREAD DELIVERY AND FOOD DONATION

Groceries are being collected and passed on to St Thomas' Burwood who have a food bank for in-need international students.

Drop off time: 10.00-11.00am Sat morning, Undercroft

The following items have been requested:

Cooking oil (*not olive*), **Long Life Milk, Tea & Coffee, Cereal, Breakfast Spreads: Jams, Honey, Vegemite, Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Rice, Lentils, Chick peas, Tinned Meals** (*ring top preferred*), **Tinned Vegetables/Fruit** (*ring top preferred*), **Toiletries, Toilet Paper, Tinned Tuna** (*ring top preferred*), **Washing Powder, 2 Minute Noodles, Tinned Soups** (*ring top preferred*).

DIARIES and CHRISTMAS CARDS

Mothers' Union diaries and Christmas cards will be available to order soon. Let Jan know if you are interested. Ph: 98906528 or 0425 75 7 778.

COVID-19 VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

to the FIVE CATHEDRALS of the ANGLICAN PROVINCE of VICTORIA

There is still plenty of time to support Father Shane's virtual pilgrimage as he walks daily, recording the kilometres on the map from St Peter's to the Anglican cathedrals in Victoria and back to St Peter's.

The pilgrimage is also a fundraiser for the Whitehorse Community Centre. Details of where donations can be made and further information can be found by emailing him: vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au Ph: 0432 681 177

Pledges can be made into the following account:

BSB 033-135 Account Number: 535329

Find out more on the blog about the pilgrimage weekly at: <http://fathershane.org>

WHERE IS HE NOW? This week Fr Shane is now on his way from Sale (virtually) to St Paul's Cathedral in the city!

PARISH BOOK

Don't forget to send your contribution (300-500 words) for the parish book to the Vicar or parish office as soon as possible. Reflections on the COVID times.

MEN'S BREAKFAST 28th November 2020

How? In the Undercroft or if not as a virtual meeting on ZOOM. At 8.00 am

Topic will be: "Mum and Me by Rail across the USA"

Speaker: Mum's son – the VICAR



JOURNEYS AT HOME

Please Don't Sneeze

"According to the traditional account of Vasco da Gama's arrival in India....Portugal's eastern empire began with a memorable one-liner. On May 21, 1498, an anonymous crew member was sent ashore, where he met, with a mixture of dismay and relief, two Tunisian merchants: dismay, because they were the religious and commercial enemy; relief because they could at least communicate, since the Tunisians spoke some basic Castilian and Genoese. To the astonished Tunisians the European sailor gave a succinct account of his presence: 'We come in search of Christians and spices.'" (Jack Turner in *Encompassing the Globe. Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries*).

Chief among the "spices" was pepper, so familiar in our food that we are usually unaware of its complex and exotic history. It has long been the most important spice world wide, and indeed has been referred to as "the master spice". It currently accounts for 20% of the total spice market.

The term Pepper, now used of a number of warm spices, was originally the name for the dried berries of a flowering vine, *Piper nigrum* ("black pepper" in Latin). The plant is native to the western coast of India, but will also grow well in other tropical areas, but never further than 20 degrees from the equator. The seeds are borne in long tassels which for black pepper are gathered when green, briefly boiled, then dried in the sun or by machine to become the wrinkled brown/black peppercorn relished for its "spicy" taste. (The word corn derives from the AngloSaxon term for grain). White pepper, which in fact accounts for most of the crop, is produced from the fully ripe berries with the outer husk removed; it is less intense in flavor.

Astonishingly, pepper had reached ancient Egypt from India by at least 1213 BC – it was found in the tomb of Ramses 11. It is attested in Greek writing from the 4th c. By the time of the development of the Roman Empire in the 1st c BC there was an established trade route which would be used for some 1500 years. After accessing numerous ports in India, especially on the West coast, and even as far afield as Taprobane (modern Sri Lanka) by taking advantage of monsoon winds ships returned across the Indian Ocean, up the Arabian Gulf, and the cargoes were then carried by land to be shipped across the Mediterranean. According to the Greek geographer, historian and traveler Strabo, writing around 20 AD, in his time about 120 ships made the annual trip. From around the same time pepper was being traded from India into China.



Given the long shipment of course pepper was a condiment restricted to the wealthy. Indeed, Pliny the Elder, writing around 75 AD, complained of the drain on the Roman economy caused by the "luxury" (ie, unnecessary) trade in spices. In the *Natural History* he wrote "it is quite surprising that the use of pepper has come so much into fashion, seeing that in other substances which we use, sometimes it is their sweetness, and sometimes their appearance which has attracted our notice; whereas pepper has nothing that can plead as a recommendation to either fruit or berry, its only desirable quality being a certain pungency; and yet it is for this that we import it all the way from India!" and went on to insinuate that those who were genuinely hungry would have no need of such a stimulus. In spite of his denunciation, the famous cookbook

written by "Apicius", probably compiled between the 1st and 5th c uses pepper in 80% of the recipes. The ransom paid by the emperor to the Visigoths to lift their siege of Rome in 410 included 3000 pounds (about 1360 kg) of pepper.

Pliny's disgust would be echoed by a riddle attributed to Bp Aldhelm of Sherborne (c 700)

I am black on the outside, clad in a wrinkled skin

Yet within I bear a burning marrow

I season delicacies, the banquets of kings, and the luxuries of the table

Both the sauces and the tenderized meats of the kitchen

But you will find in me no quality of any worth.

Yet studies of the medieval table reveal that pepper was much desired because, as Pliny had inferred, it whetted the appetite – the old idea that spices were used to cover up the taste of bad meat has long been disproven. Moreover they were an obvious signifier of wealth, and beautiful boxes and dishes were created to flaunt their presence by display on the table. Pepper was a basic constituent of the many creations of the “saucery” – special dressings so called because originally they were served in saucers. It was also regarded as a medicine, countering “cold and wet” temperaments by its “hot and dry” properties.

As Islam took over the areas through which the trade routes had passed the trade came to be controlled by Arab merchants. In spite of strict controls – and price hiking – pepper continued to grow in popularity throughout Europe, with many coastal cities vying to profit by it. In the 14th c Genoa was the most successful, with up to 40% of the city's annual income derived from pepper shipped from Alexandria. Then the Venetians came to the fore; with a markup of an average 40% on the over 400 (old) tons imported during the 15th century it was an important part of their prosperity also.

Little wonder, then, that pepper was a most important item in the spices which the Portuguese king hoped to gain control of through sending Vasco da Gama to discover an alternative sea route to the “Spice Islands” in 1497. Despite the difficult and dangerous journeys involved, this tactic succeeded; between 1500 and 1600 Portugal imported some 2 million kg annually from India; it was truly “the pepper empire”. Moreover, as Turner notes, it was “godly profit” because evangelism and trade were linked.

The Portuguese in turn were ousted by the Dutch, who succeeded in the 17th c in establishing colonies in pepper producing areas in Indonesia as well as in India and Sri Lanka. The sharp decline in the price of pepper which has made it so affordable today was enabled by colonial trading structures including the spread of cultivation (today Brazil and Vietnam are leading pepper exporters) together with the concomitant spread of the “other” peppers – chillies from the New World. Nevertheless the Dutch still retain the expression *peperduur* – “as expensive as pepper”, a token of the past.

By the 18th c it was cheap enough to be a significant item in the rations provided to slaves on the journey to the Americas from Africa along with the diet of yams, peanuts, plantains and palm oil – an indication also that it was well established in West African cuisine.



It is notable that most regional cuisines incorporate pepper in their characteristic spice mixes - such as garam masala in India, ras el hanout in Morocco, quatre épices in France and Cajun and jerk blends in the Americas, even if much “hotter” spices are dominant. While using pepper in gingerbread has recently been “discovered” it is actually a throwback to medieval recipes for gingerbread in which the use of expensive spices, and gilding applied to the finished product, marked it as a rare luxury available only at annual markets or fairs. And – pepper makes us sneeze because the active ingredient which gives it the distinctive “pepper” taste, piperine, is an irritant to the nasal membranes and they react by trying to get rid of it as fast as possible.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

A woman in a confessional said, “Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have committed the sin of vanity. Twice a day I look in the mirror and tell myself how beautiful I am.” The priest took a look at her and said, “My dear, that isn’t a sin. It’s simply a mistake.”

This Week

SUN 8.11.20

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

9.30am Streamed live service

(Go to our website for services and reflections.)

MON 9.11.20

TUES 10.11.20

Office closed

WED 11.11.20

THU 12.11.20

Office OPEN

FRI 14.11.20

SAT 14.11.20

Food drop off and bread collection
Between 10 – 11.00am

SUN 15.11.20

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9.30am Streamed live service

ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

Parish Office: 9899 5122

Email

anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

Website

www.anglicansboxhill.org.au

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



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E vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au

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

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Reporting Child Abuse
All child safety concerns must be reported.
Kooyoora Professional
Standards 1800 135 246