



**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL**  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
31 January, 2021

# Parish Link

## The Vicar writes...

Welcome to our in-person and online worship today! In the gospel reading, Jesus encounters a man with an unclean spirit. In ancient times, mental health issues were often identified with spiritual possession. Something was believed to “take over” a person’s psyche, imprisoning them by forces greater than themselves. While we cannot rule out spirit possession, we know that we are possessed by many things that need to be exorcised. Virtually all of us have behaviours that we struggle with, addictions and compulsions large and small. We know often what’s best for us, but often also succumb to temptation. Like the man in the story, we need assistance from an energy and wisdom greater than our own. As well, today’s reading invites us to take seriously persons with mental health issues and persons whose self-presentations make us uncomfortable. We don’t speak of “unclean” people but we all have people – and groups – we avoid. All of us are connected and no one can claim immunity from the vicissitudes of mind, body, and spirit. God is concerned with every aspect of our lives and wants to restore each of us to wholeness. We can speak words from God to each other, and support each other’s well-being and movement from sickness to health. We need to remember Mother Teresa’s counsel to see God in all God’s distressing disguises. The Lord be with you



### **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

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. Matthew 9.35

## Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Readings

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 18.15-20

<sup>15</sup> The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup> This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' <sup>17</sup> Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

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

### Psalm: 111

<sup>1</sup> O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:  
in the company of the upright and among the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> **The works of the Lord are great:  
and studied by all who take delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup> His deeds are majestic and glorious:  
and his righteousness stands for ever.

<sup>4</sup> His marvellous acts have won him a name  
to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> **He gives food to those that fear him:  
he remembers his covenant for ever.**

<sup>6</sup> He showed his people the power of his acts:  
in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

<sup>7</sup> **The works of his hands are faithful and just:  
and all his commandments are sure;**

<sup>8</sup> They stand firm for ever and ever:  
they are done in faithfulness and in truth.

<sup>9</sup> **He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever:  
holy is his name and worthy to be feared.**

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments:  
his praise shall endure for ever.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8.1-13

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup> but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup> Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' <sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup> It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark, Chapter 1, verses 21-28

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the

unclean spirits, and they obey him.' <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

### Years Mind

Joyce Stephens, Charles Maryon Crooks, Jim Allen whose anniversaries occur at this time.



### Prayer Points

*The Church:* Pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bps Stephen Pickard, Carol Wagner, Clergy & People); Anglican Early Childhood Services; Redemption Church Craigieburn (Akhil Gardner); St George's Anglican Church, Monbulk – Pastoral Service (Bishop Paul Barker).

*The Parish:* Give thanks for the work of Father Harry and for his time in our parish.

*The World:* Pray for the homeless, dispossessed and refugees seeking sanctuary.

*The Nation:* Pray for those without work and those living in poverty.

### Prayer of the Week

O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

### Daily Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Hebrews 11.32-40	Ps 31.23-27	Mark 5.1-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hebrews 12.1-4	Ps 22.26-32	Mark 5.21-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	Hebrews 12.4-7, 11-15	Ps 103.15-18	Mark 6.1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	Hebrews 12.18-24	Ps 48.9-14	Mark 6.7-13
<b>Friday</b>	Hebrews 13.1-8	Ps 27.1-16	Mark 6.14-29
<b>Saturday</b>	Hebrews 13.15-17, 20-21	Ps 23	Mark 6.30-34

### ABM Pew Reflections

The first part of the *Shahadah*, the Muslim declaration of faith and the first pillar of Islam, is *there is no god but God*. I think Paul would agree. He recognises the existence of other gods but claims that there is only God, God the Father and the only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Unclean spirits, demons and the like recognise who Jesus is while the people around him do not. It takes a devil to recognise its opposite. Help us to recognise the one true God. Pray that we will recognise the idols of our age, money, status and power, and work and live to overcome them with the help of Jesus who is the only Holy One. Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia



*If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing **before** Thursday 9899 5122 or [anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com](mailto:anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com)*

### **MORNING TEA COVID STYLE**

To enable us to have a group event, please follow this procedure today for the morning tea in the hall. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

- Sanitise upon entering the hall
- Important that you wait to be served
- NO SELF SERVICE OR SHARING
- Personally dispose of your cups, plates etc., in the bins provided
- REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE

## **The World Day of Prayer 2021 host country is Vanuatu Theme: "Build on a Strong Foundation"**

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu. It would be great to have some of our congregation present on the day.

**Place:** St Andrew's Uniting Church, 909 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill (opposite tram terminal)

**Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021

**Time:** 2.00pm

### **SAMARITAN'S PURSE**

Back to school products are now available and items I have bought from Big W and Office Works have been great value. Buy now at reasonable prices to get a head start on your boxes. My starter bags will be available at any time as well.

Jan Gunst, Samaritan's Purse Co-ordinator.

### **GIVING ENVELOPES**

There are still some envelopes for freewill giving that were not distributed last year. Please check in the foyer or with the office if you did not get yours.



**Belated Happy Birthday**  
**Phil Dooley**



### **FAREWELL TO FATHER HARRY**

Today will be the last Sunday Father Harry will be in the parish and there is a morning tea for him in the hall after the service. This will be an opportunity for us to thank him for his work while he has been here and wish him well for the future.



*we will miss you*

### **TO ALL OUR DEAR FRIENDS AND MUSICAL COLLEAGUES AT ST PETER'S**

Thank you so much for your letters and phone calls regarding Lewis' health. He is on much medication and on chemo at Epworth Box Hill every two weeks.

We would like to thank Father Shane for his spiritual support, bring Holy Communion to us every few days.

We would also like to thank cousin Garry Plumridge and Jenny MacKinnon-Love for their organ playing. How fortunate St Peter's is to have two such capable organists to take over on the organ bench!

Lewis would like to see visitors for very short visits, but please phone me before you come. (0414 569 613)

With all our love, Carole and Lewis

# TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, written in gold. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex." "Good morning, Pastor," replied the boy, still focused on the plaque. "Father Phillip, what is this?" Alex asked.

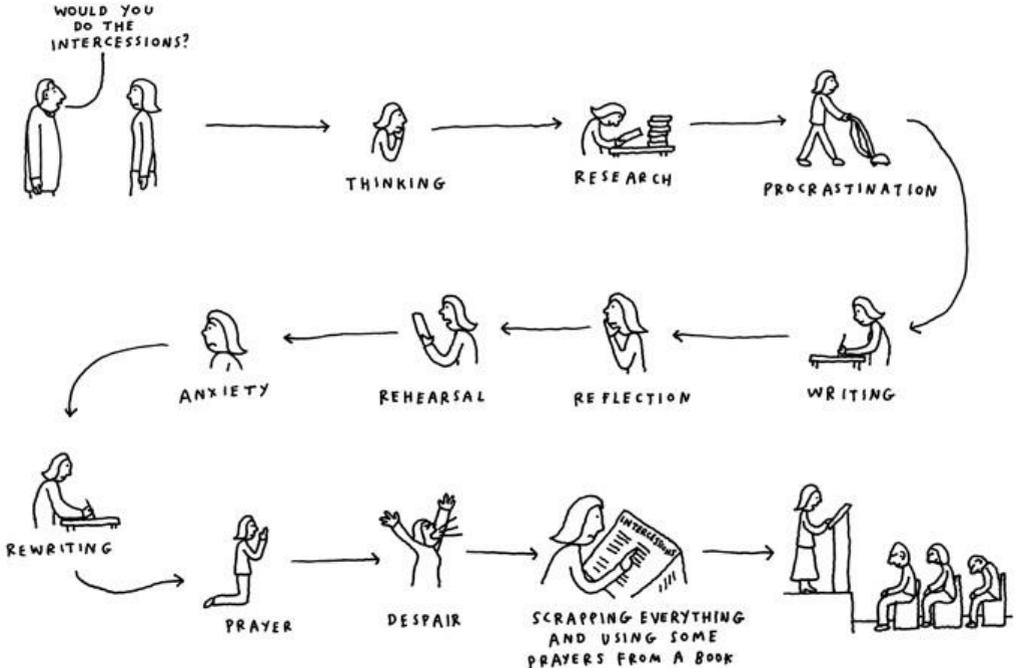
"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died while serving."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "How many altar boys have died while they were at a church service?"

# THE INTERCESSIONS

HOW TO PREPARE THEM



## This Week

**SUN 31.1.21**

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Fr Harry's farewell

**8.00am, 9.30am** Eucharist

**11.30am** Mandarin service

**2.30pm** Dinka service

**MON 1.2.21**

**TUES 2.2.21**

**8.00-11.00am** Men at Work

**8.30am – 12.30pm** Office open

**WED 3.2.21**

**10.30am** Eucharist

**THU 4.2.21**

**10am – 2pm** Office open

**FRI 5.2.21**

**7.30am** Eucharist

**SAT 6.2.21**

**SUN 7.2.21**

### Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

**8.00am, 9.30am** Eucharist

**11.30am** Mandarin service

**2.30pm** Dinka service



## ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

**Parish Office:** 9899 5122

**Email**

[anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com](mailto:anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com)

**Website** [www.anglicansboxhill.org.au](http://www.anglicansboxhill.org.au)

**Office Hours:**

Tues 8.30am – 12.30pm

Thu 10.00am – 2.00pm

## Vicar

The Reverend Shane Hübner

T 0432 681 177

E [vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au](mailto:vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au)

## Honorary Clergy

The Rt Rev George Hearn,

T 9840 7816

Reverends:

Betty Bracken 9939 5881

Alasdair MacKinnon-Love

0438 323 059

E [alsadair@mackinnonlove.com](mailto:alsadair@mackinnonlove.com)

## Sudanese Ministry

Reverend Joseph Arou

T 0431 541 535

E [lokagai@hotmail.com](mailto:lokagai@hotmail.com)

## Chinese Ministry

The Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439

## Family Minister

Barbara Plumridge

T 0405 193 122

E [barbara.plumridge@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.plumridge@gmail.com)

Wardens:

Margaret Dooley 0438 129 161

Sophia Errey 9878 6297

Garry Plumridge 9898 5193

Reporting Child Abuse

All child safety concerns must be reported.

Kooyoora Professional Standards 1800 135 246