



Weekly News

22 March 2020

Sunday service times

8am Traditional **9:15am** Traditional
11am Families **5 pm** Contemporary

Connecting the members of the South East Bendigo Anglican Parish (Holy Trinity)

Reflection

What God asks of us

I've been reading through Deuteronomy and this was part of my passage today:

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

This passage (the whole book really) was spoken to God's people on the edge of going into the promised land. Imagine how strange the world must have been feeling for God's people in this time, on the cusp of leaving all that they knew and stepping into a whole new world. No doubt there were some doubts. But in these

doubts, Moses encourages the people - fear the LORD your God - that is, recognise who he is, maker, owner, sustainer and King of even the highest heavens and the earth – and then in reverence before his might and majesty, live as his people, serving and loving and

and it hasn't finished yet. And you don't need to look far to see how much the change and sudden lack of control is rocking people – the empty shelves at the supermarkets, the quietness around the streets, seeing the worst in people as they hoard and fight

and look after only number 1, and at other times seeing the best as people show care and concern (and share toilet paper with their neighbours!). This last fortnight we've seen it all.

Of course, we as Christians should be first to do all we can to slow down transmission of the virus and show practical love in our community. We aren't immune just

because we are Christians, contrary to what some would teach. But we can face these times with a much greater hope and peace. For in a world running on fear, we have a chance to show how fearing God first puts



obeying the LORD. God had shown himself faithful in the past. Fear him, know his awesomeness and trust him to be faithful again.

We are living in strange times. The world seems to have changed very rapidly this month

Bible readings

This Sunday Genesis 37:1-35 (p.41) Hebrews 12:1-3 (p.1210)
Next Sunday Matthew 13:53-57 (p.980) Matthew 18:21-35 (p.985)

Reflection continued...

everything else into perspective. In a world drowning in darkness and self-centredness, we have a great opportunity to shine the light and love of Christ. In a world feeling desperate and hopeless, we with a certain hope can approach

even a pandemic with the confidence that the LORD is still on his throne.

Moses' words are very apt for us as this COVID-19 changes our world. Faith is proved in times like this. Not just proved but given opportunity to shine! So, friends, fear God, love, serve and obey him and shine in these

uncertain times. And pray - pray that God would work this pandemic for the good of turning a community panicked by their loss of control back to himself.

*Karen Reid
Curate*



News

Changes due to COVID-19

This week our diocesan clergy met with Bishop Matt and we have received new directives regarding our life together for this season that is unprecedented in our lifetime.

Below are some of the items most relevant to us.

Services to pause

Public services are to pause. This will allow us to determine how best to utilise our time and the physical spaces - church, outdoors and our homes. Any gathering will be compliant with government directives, hygiene and responsive to the

vulnerabilities of those who come.

Ministers may open the church if they are able to comply with the social distancing requirements. Clergy may administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in a one-to-one or small group setting.

Weddings and funerals

Weddings and funerals may go ahead so long as they adhere to government requirements. As of today the maximum capacity at Holy Trinity is 40 people.

Children and youth ministry

Face to face ministry to children and youth is paused.

Food

As a rule, eating together at church gatherings is not

possible.

Giving

In order to reduce the handling of money, you are encouraged to give online.

Particular caution must be applied for those counting money. Guidelines will be provided to any money counters.

Prayer and meditation

We will open the church for quiet prayer and meditation from time to time. This may include a series of guided activities. Ministers will be available to those attending, while keeping an appropriate distance.

Small gatherings

At various times we will invite healthy people to gather in

homes in groups of five or so to talk, pray and receive the Lord's Supper (wafers only).

Holy Trinity services

We will be providing two services online - one at 9am and another at 11am.

The link via the website is www.southeastbendigo.com/welcome-to-virtual-church/

DVDs will be available afterwards from the church for those who prefer.

On Sundays, the church will be open for prayer and the hearing of scripture between 1pm and 3 pm. Appropriate distancing and hygiene will be practiced. Please only stay for up to 30 minutes if you come.

Automated door opening

Parents please be aware that, while services are paused, the doors will no longer be operated by push button, but will open automatically.

Pastoral care

We have already appointed 20 trusted people to keep in contact by phone with those who are over 80 or are isolated. This is to ensure that everyone remains connected and well supported.

We will appoint others to communicate by email and instant messaging with those who are more tech savvy.

We will also be seeking everyone's permission to be on a contact list that will be shared with those who have been attending the service you are part of. Of course no one has to participate in this if they would

prefer not to do so.

The ministry team will continue to think of how we can best keep our communities connected and safe. Everyone is encouraged to be on the lookout for the needs of others as they arise.

We ask that if you are feeling unwell, please don't come into the church or other meeting places and seek medical advice. With the current uncertainty around the virus, this really is one of the best ways we can show love to our community at this time.

Should you need any support or encouragement please remember you are always welcome to call one of the ministry team who will happily talk and pray with you, and where appropriate, arrange a pastoral visit.

Small groups

There is the capacity for some small groups to continue to meet. However you must ensure that the government's social distancing and standards of hygiene are maintained and that no food is consumed.

Keep group sessions as short as possible and no more than two hours. Please talk with Karen regarding your group if you are unsure.

A space at Holy Trinity may be a better place to meet rather than in a home for some groups.

Events that have been paused or cancelled

- Seniors Service
- Diocesan Youth Camp
- Lady Day

This Lent: Give up your offences

This year our Lent sermon series is focussing on giving up our offences. It is a challenging and liberating series to listen to.

We will continue the sermon series from next Sunday through the live stream and DVDs.

The Tuesday evening study at Holy Trinity will still continue in the southern room this week from 7:30 until 9pm.

Table tennis and T-bones

Last Monday about 20 blokes gathered for a great night of table tennis and T-bone steaks and it was such a blast.



Prayer

Church and mission

Parish

In this season of deep uncertainty, pray for opportunities to show practical love and demonstrate the hope we have with our neighbours and community.

Pray for connection to be strong amongst this local body of Christ though we are in a time of many changes.

Pray for our ministry team, for health, energy, wisdom and faithfulness in their leadership.

Give thanks and pray for the those who volunteer as small group leaders.

Pray for the different groups in our church, this week, the Wednesday service and seniors.

Diocese

Vicar General - Elizabeth Dyke

Mission

Pray for outreach ministry of 'Breakie Club' at Bendigo South East School.

Pray for our link missionary Suse in South East Asia.

Persecuted Church

North Korea: Pray for North Korean believers to fix their eyes

on Jesus in the midst of suffering. Pray for God to provide for persecuted Christians who desperately need food, water and shelter.

World

Coronavirus Pandemic

Pray for healing for those infected and peace for those feeling anxious and isolated in the lockdowns.

Pray for wise leadership from governments and health experts, and for the health system preparing for a heavy load.

Pray for those under financial strain or at risk of losing their jobs.

Pray for those suffering abuse because of their ethnic background (Asian, Middle Eastern, Italian) and pray for Christians to shine a light of kindness, hope and love in this darkness of fear and panic.

Myanmar

Pray for justice for the minority people groups of Myanmar, many who have had to flee persecution and violence. Pray the government would repent and work towards justice for all their peoples.

Mexico

Pray for success for those in leadership and positions of power who are working

courageously in Mexico against corruption, fighting drug and organised crime and striving for justice and peace.

National and local

Pray for all levels of government to lead with integrity and wisdom. This week we focus on the local level and pray for the Mayor Margaret O'Rourke and other councillors.

Pray for ongoing reconciliation in our nation and for a reduction in the gap between Indigenous Australians and the rest of society.

Pray that as economic help is rolled out by the government, that the funds would make it to those most in need.

Pray that as a nation we will be good stewards of the land and natural resources, ensuring the long term health of our environment.

Give thanks for the City of Greater Bendigo for all of its services to us.

Personal

Sick and in need

Baby Devon Peterson, Shiri Synan, Lorenzo Santalucia, Eric & Muriel Jencke and any others known to us.

Deceased

Keith Thompson

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