

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Anne Van Gend, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Council.
For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia.
Give thanks for the life of Fred Naish and pray for his family.

Those who are sick: Andy, Aubrey, Bev, Bill, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Gerald, Jim & Eleanor L, Jian, Joan F, John, Mike, Lysiane, Myrtle, Noeline & Alan, Lexie, Louise, Margaret S, Nick D, Pauline, Philip, Rex & Rachel, Sarah, Sue, Ruby, Val H and family.

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays

Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Mornington 9.30am 1,2,& 4th Sundays

No Soup & Communion service on the 21st April

St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek Eucharistic service at 1pm

Southern Coastal Deanery

St Margaret's 4 Seaview Road, Brighton - St Mark's 27 Shand St, GI
St Mary's 3 Whitby St, Mornington
Holy Cross 5 Bellona St. St Kilda

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Southern Coastal Deanery

14 April, 2024.

3rd Sunday of Easter

A thread running through this week's texts is that of being a witness – of what has been, of what is unfolding, of something to be revealed. To be a witness, as these texts understand it, is to exist in complex tensions of doubt and evidence, astonishment and faith, terror and peace, disbelief and joy, of distress and hope, of who we are and who we could be. To be a witness is to have an encounter with God that transforms us and compels us to act.

Acts 3:12–19 recounts Peter's sermon following his and John's healing encounter with a person who has been lame since birth (v. 2). Peter speaks of the people in condemning terms, depicting them as having rejected Jesus, painting a stark contrast to those whose lives are marked by the power of faith in the resurrected Christ, evidenced in the wholly transformed life of the formerly lame man.

Like the disciples in Luke 24:36b–48 are invited to "touch and see" Jesus, those present "see and know" this man and are witnesses to his story and the power of faith. The good news of Peter's sermon is that, through repentance, all those present may be forgiven and restored to wholeness.

In 1 John 3:1–7, community is understood as a gift from God, part of our identity as children of God. Again, tension is present in this community of witnesses who "see" (v. 1) God's love. They await a future revelatory encounter with God, one that will transform them; yet, they know that being children of God requires a response, imperfect as it is.

Luke 24:36b–48 continues the narrative that began earlier in v. 13 with Cleopas and his companion encountering Jesus on the Emmaus road. "They" (v. 36) are the eleven disciples plus their companions, gathered and listening to the Emmaus pair tell of meeting and sharing a meal with Jesus.

These events mirror the events of last week's text from John 20. This time, however, the disciples are in the position of Thomas. They are

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

hearing another's account of meeting the risen Jesus and are not able to overcome their doubt without the evidence of sight and touch. This text presents two significant and interlocking themes. First, as also happens in Acts 3, a miraculous event occurs, and, as a response, those who are witnesses to the event are called to repent. To be a witness is not a passive event. It is a call to action. The gathered followers are not only observers of an amazing story; they are to be participants in that amazing story.

Call to worship:

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

Let us join together in song, to celebrate the blessings we have seen and the blessings yet to come, the miracles we have witnessed and the miracles yet unseen, the love that we know and the love that is to come. **Come let us worship.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
help us remember that there is so much more to this world than what our minds can imagine. Let our hearts be open to the everyday miracles that occur all around us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession *Based on Psalm 4:*

Let us confess, praying with the psalmist:
**'You are my God and protector. Please answer my prayer.
I was in terrible distress, but you set me free.
Now have pity and listen as I pray.'**

**Forgive me, God, for not respecting you.
Forgive me for the foolish things I have done.
Forgive me when I have cherished what is worthless.
You have chosen me, and you will answer.**

Because of this, I will silently search my heart and turn from my sins.
(time of silence)

Words of Grace

The psalmist reminds us that God is our protector and will listen when we pray.

Let your kindness, God, shine brightly on us.
You bring us peace, that allows us to lie down and rest soundly because you will keep us safe. **Amen.**

Sentence: Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.
Acts 3:19-20

Collect: Lord, help us to see: to see what is eternally good and true, and having seen, to go on searching until we come to the joys of heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

E te Ariki, āwhinatia mai mātou kia kite: kia kite ai he aha te pai me te pono mutunga kore, kua kite nei mātou, me rapu tonu ā, tae noa ki ngā harikoa o te rangi. E ĭnoi ai mātou i roto i a te Karaiti tō mātou Kaihoko. Āmine.

Readings: Acts 3:12-19, Ps 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

Hymns: HTC S3 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, HTC S7 He is Lord, NJ 136 Take our bread, HTC 46 vs 1,4,6 Through all the changing scenes of life.

Blessing/Benediction

May you be blessed with miracles, both ordinary and extraordinary.
May you be blessed with love, both simple and expansive.
May you be blessed with grace for yourself and for those around you.
And may you be filled with peace, whatever life brings toward you.
Amen.

Readings for 21st April, 2024

Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Calendar

Tuesday 16th April: School Holidays – no after school group please pray for the children and their families. 7pm meeting

Wednesday 17th April: 1pm Midweek eucharist at Holy Cross 2pm Home Communion 5.30pm Meditation Group meets at Holy Cross.

Thursday 18th April: 10.30am Fruit and Vege distribution at Green Island, 4pm St Kilda F & V distribution, 7.30pm Study group, Taieri Vestry

Friday 19th April: 11am Montecillo worship, 5.45pm Friday Light at St Peters.

Saturday 20th April: Relay for Life 10am-10pm

Sunday 21st April: 10.30am Eucharist at Brighton, 11am Eucharist at St Kilda, **11am Memorial Service for Fred Naish at St Mary's. No 4pm service today.**

A Convivial Farewell to Bishop Steve and Lorraine – refreshments and favourite hymns at St Peter's Caversham, Dunedin, Friday 3 May 2024. Booking essential – contact Nicola Wong (bishops.pa@callsouth.org.nz phone 03 488 0826) before Tuesday 23 April, and let us know your favourite hymn. Potluck supper. Beverages provided.

Sunday 12 May - Diocesan Farewell Service to Bishop Steve and Lorraine at St Paul's Cathedral at 4 pm.



Dr **Paula Gooder** is a writer and speaker on the New Testament and is Canon Chancellor of **St Paul's Cathedral in London.**

At this link you can listen to Paula in conversation with former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, about the resurrection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wLxMSppSMk>

Excellent conversation to listen to. There are others in the series you can access on the Cathedral youtube channel&

Prayers for Others

Creator God,
we thank you for the miracle of your creation.
We thank you for the sun that rises and sets,
the plants that keep the air in balance and provides us food,
the water that moves through the atmosphere,
and the animals and creatures that live on the earth.
Help us to remember the creator each time we encounter the creation.

Loving God,
we thank you for the miracle of life.
We thank you for the way our bodies are made,
the way limbs move, the way brains think, the way emotions feel, and
the way you give energy.
We thank you for doctors and nurses who can care for us when we are
ailing.
We thank you for medicine to treat disease.
Help us to remember your loving goodness that is seen in our bodies.

Gracious God,
we thank you for the miracle of love.
We thank you for those who love us and those we love.
We thank you for communities of care,
and groups where we can share our interests.
We thank you for social media and other places where we can connect
with others.
Help us to remember to love those who might feel out of place and
unconnected.

God of all goodness,
help us to see the miracles around us every day.
Help us to know that you are the author of all that is miraculous.
Amen.