

## Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, Community Support Enabler - Anne Van Gend, the Diocesan office staff and Council.

For the global effort to contain the Covid19 pandemic  
For 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer movement as we pray for others to come to know Jesus.

Those who are sick: Amy, Anne, Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Chris, Claire Christie, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gary Griffith-Smith, Graham, Jan HV, Jan Y, Jean V, Jim L, Joan F, Mike, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Muriel, Murray, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Faye, Ruby, Val S, Valda M, Yvonne D.

### Worship Schedule

**Brighton 10.30a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays**  
**Green Island 10.30a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**  
**Mornington 9.30a.m.**

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

### Midweek service

**Wednesday @ 1pm at Holy Cross no service on 28<sup>th</sup> April**

### 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

### **Southern Coastal Deanery web page: [scd.org.nz](http://scd.org.nz)**

Regional Dean: Jan Clark 455-6032 or 027 3515171  
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Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

# Southern Coastal Deanery

**2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

When we trust God, when we abide in God, the love of God revealed in Jesus bears much fruit in us, and our relationships with God and one another. Meetings become holy encounters when we meet others with a spirit of love, mutuality, and interdependence.

**Acts 8:26–40** narrates an encounter that recalls Jesus' final instructions to his disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Ethiopian eunuch reads Isaiah 53:7–8 from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. In their interaction, the two figures question each other. One is not exclusively in possession of answers; understanding comes via mutuality. This exchange is holy dialogue. This story follows a pattern similar to that of Luke 24 (from two weeks ago) in which participation in a sacred act follows an understanding of scripture. In Luke 24, that act is the sharing of bread. Here that act is baptism.

**1 John 4:7–21** is full of love. Of the text's fifteen verses, twelve contain the word love at least once. Asserted repeatedly is that God loves us; therefore, we must love others, even so far as to be the same love: love of God is love of others (vv. 20–21). These verses also focus, like John 15, on abiding, including a beautifully intricate weaving together of love and abide in verse 16 that illustrates both textually and conceptually their intimate connectedness.

**John 15:1–8** begins, "I am the true vine," one of several statements in John where Jesus speaks of himself using a metaphor that begins "I am..." Last week's text included another of these statements: "I am the good shepherd" (10:11a). This text echoes the parable of the fig tree in Luke 13:6–9, as well as sharing imagery with Matt 3:7–10 and 7:15–20.

Metaphor invites a multiplicity of interpretation and layers in meaning.

**Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda**

This particular metaphor appeals through its accessibility: the purpose of cutting down and pruning vegetation is as it always has been. Yet, we must be mindful in interpreting this metaphor of the role in which we place ourselves. The identity of vine grower is clear. We are invited to examine, individually and communally, the condition of our vineyard and how we might improve its health. However, we are not invited to call upon the metaphor in ways that perpetrate harm or oppression under the guise of “cutting off an unproductive branch.”

Another significant feature of this text is the recurrence of abiding. This abiding is thick with significance. It is to be secure, deeply attached, close, loyal, and continue in a particular state or action. It conveys mutuality, togetherness over individualism, interdependence. This interdependence with the vine grower promises to be a relationship that will continuously shape, form, and re-form us.

As Easter people, we live both in the shadow of the cross and the light of the Resurrection. This Sunday, our texts address the questions: How should we live as Christians? How do we tell the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection? What is new life? The easy answer to all of these questions is love. The text proclaims that God is love, and we are to love one another. In the book of Acts, Philip tells “the story” to the Ethiopian official and the two share in holy dialogue and the sacred act of baptism. In the gospel of John and 1 John, we hear affirmations of connectedness in the image of vine and branches, as well as in a call to abide. Love is freely and overwhelming given to those who believe, but this love also requires investment, sharing, and forgiveness.

#### **Easter Acclamation:**

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

#### **Opening Prayer**

Vine-grower, during this time of worship, we come to grow and learn. You offer us life, nourish us, and create a space to thrive. May our worship draw us closer to you. Shape and form our hearts and minds as we hear your word, sing your praises, and seek your guidance through prayer. Strengthen us to bear good fruit today and in the days to come. In the name of the one who proclaimed, I am the vine. Amen.

**Sentence:** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to

love one another. *1 John 4:10-11*

#### **Collect of the Day.**

Gracious God, you call us your own and love us beyond measure; in the rising of your Son we are made a resurrection people, free us from the old ways, make us faithful disciples, so that we can share with others what you have freely given to us, Through Jesus Christ our Liberator, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings.** Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

**Hymns:** All the hungry, all the thirsty, NJ 74 In the presence of your people, Thy kingdom come, We shall go out with hope of resurrection,

#### **Notices**

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May;** St Mary's Fellowship, 7:30pm in St Anne's Hall. Guest speaker is Revd. David Crooke, topic "A Cultural Visit to the Netherlands". . Please come along and support David. The meeting will be followed by supper. All welcome.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May;** 11am GGICN, 3pm Oasis, 5.30pm St Barnabas Board, 7.30pm ALLM planning meeting

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May;** 10am Eucharist Taieri & Brooklands, 1pm Midweek Communion @ Holy Cross, 2pm Worship @ Bradford Manor.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May;** 10.30am-11.30am Fruit & vege Distribution Green island, 4-5.30pm F & V at St Kilda, 1.30pm South D Ministers Association meeting. 3pm Meeting.

#### **The practice of Prayer**

The Daily Examen is a type of prayer used in the ancient church to help people to reflect on their day in meaningful ways.

1. Reflect on the following and write, draw, doodle, or colour a prayer.

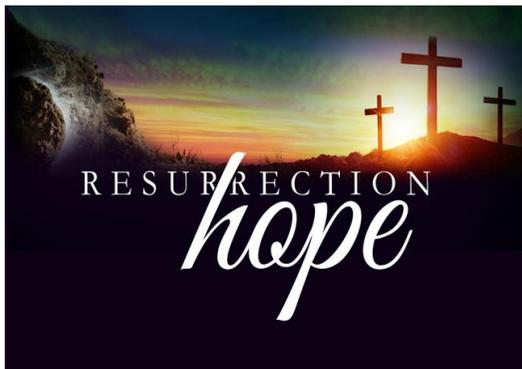
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?
- Where did you see God in your day. (Did you experience God through kindness, learning something new, being challenged?)
  - What is something with which you are struggling?
  - What is something you hope for the future?

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection,  
(Tune: Londonderry Air)**

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,  
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,  
Tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,  
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
Vibrating love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,  
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
Including all within the circles of our love.

Joyce Boyce-Tillman



**All the hungry, all the Thirsty**

1. All the hungry, all the thirsty,  
all who look for strength may come,  
all the needy, all the lonely,  
all who long to find a home.  
Here's a door that's always open,  
here a table spread for all,  
here a welcome, here a family,  
here your heart can heed God's call.
2. All the gifted, all the joyful,  
all whose hope is strong, come too;  
come with overflowing blessings,  
come with treasures old and new.  
Here's a task that needs those riches,  
here good news is always heard,  
here a living faith grows bolder,  
here your voice can speak God's word.
3. All the gifts of all God's people,  
all the struggles, all the pain,  
all the Spirit-sent abundance,  
all the grief and loss and gain-  
brought together in one Body,  
burdens lighten, joys increase,  
and together we can ask for  
Jesus' strength and Jesus' peace.
4. All God's people, praise your Maker,  
praise the one who called you here.  
All disciples, praise your Teacher,  
loving, leading, always near.  
All you faithful, praise the Spirit,  
lifting every heart to pray.  
Praise the Holy One, who gives us  
grace along the travelers' way.

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

## NJ 74 In the presence of your people

In the presence of your people,  
I will praise your name;  
For alone you are holy,  
Enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
Let us celebrate your goodness,  
And your steadfast love;  
May your name be exalted  
Here on earth and in heaven above.

Lai lai, lai...



This is a global move of prayer, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to pray for God's Kingdom to come - and in particular for each of us to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded to Jesus' invitation to follow him.

Now is the time to prepare, what do you need to help you commit to prayer, who will you pray for? If you would like a copy of the Novena let Jan know.

The hymn that follows has been commissioned for the Thy Kingdom Come period.

## We seek your kingdom.

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere  
We long for heaven's demonstration here  
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him all things were made  
Inspiring culture, media, and trade  
May all our work serve your economy  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere  
With us be present in our public square  
Fill all who lead with your integrity  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged  
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page  
Make us again what we were made to be  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be  
Selfless in service, loving constantly  
In everything may your authority  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Melody: Eventide (Abide with me) by William Henry Monk (Public Domain)  
Lyrics: Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan, Graham Hunter  
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