

## 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 the implementation of the Covid Protection framework.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Amy, Anne, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Chris, Claire Christie, Cedar family, Cruz and Mason, Daryl, Dorothy H, Eleanor, Ellen, Eric, Gary Griffith-Smith, Gerald J, Ginny, Graham, Grant W, Jean V, Jim L, Joan F, John, John G, Malcolm, Mike, Mike & Corryn & Kian, Muriel and family, Lysiane, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Murray, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S.

### Worship Schedule

**Brighton services resume Feb 2022**

**Green Island services resume Feb 2022**

**Mornington Churches combine for the first three Sundays in January at 9.30am. (Hosted by each denomination in this order Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian) at 9.30am St Kilda 11a.m.**

### Midweek service

**1pm communion at Holy Cross resumes 2 Feb. 2022**

### 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> Sunday of the Epiphany

16<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

## Abundant love

We can depend on God's abundant love. Whether offering renewal to those without hope in Isaiah's time or changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana, God gives us extravagant gifts. The abundant gifts of God's Spirit work in the midst of the community of God's beloved people to reveal Christ, then and now.

**Isaiah 62:1-5** Using the image of the wedding feast, Isaiah reveals the abundant joy and love that God has for God's people. The prophet is speaking a word of comfort to a hurting and desolate people, returning home after exile in Babylon. In Hebrew culture, a name offered clues to one's identity. In receiving a new name from God, the people understand that their relationship with God is restored.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11** attests to the abundance of the Spirit's gifts. Those gifts are poured out upon all for the sake of the common good.

**John 2:1-11** In this miracle story unique to John's gospel, Jesus' ministry gains public awareness at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The disciples are there, as is Jesus' mother, Mary, who seems to already know and trust in the works of Jesus. (Note, however, that the gospel of John does not refer to Jesus' mother by name.)

The story itself begins simply enough, and there is no hint in the first few verses that a miracle is about to occur. Suddenly, "the wine gave out," an embarrassing predicament for the hosts. Mary calls on Jesus to help.

Scholars disagree over Jesus' use of the term "woman" in his reply to Mary. Some cite it as a term of respect, while others claim it would have been unusual for a son to refer to his mother in this way in that culture. Our ears may hear detachment in the exchange. In spite of that, Mary emerges as a strong character of faith. She trusts Jesus' ability to respond to this need. Mary leads others to exercise such trust when she tells the servants: "Do whatever he tells you." The fact that "servants" translates diakonos, a word used in the early church for "minister," may be a subtle clue by the gospel writer about Mary's

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

significance. Some scholars, ancient and modern, saw Mary as having an important role in the early church. This story emerges as a strong witness to Mary's faith and trust.

What is truly amazing in this story is the abundance of wine Jesus offers the wedding party. Imagine about 660 litres or 150 gallons of wine, and of the highest quality! Jesus provides the best wine at the end of the feast. This would have been unheard of in that time – a reversal of expectations. The steward is confused about the origin of the wine, though the servants who had drawn the water know. Through the turning of the water into wine, Jesus is revealed. This miracle speaks of God bringing extravagance and abundance into everyday activities. God's glory is revealed and the disciples believe in Jesus. The world – or at least the world of this wedding party – has been turned around.

The Season after the Epiphany is a good time to reflect upon the ways that God's abundant love and Spirit are at work among us. In what ways does Jesus' life and ministry reveal God's abundance to you? In what ways does God continue to bring abundance into the world today?

#### **Connecting scripture and life**

Jesus shows that there is more than enough, but we tend to live with an attitude of scarcity rather than abundance. (There's not enough time, resources, food, jobs, affordable housing, etc.) And he offers the best at the wedding, not leftovers.

Q How can we respond with abundance and abundant love to the needs of our neighbours and community?

Q How can we give our best to those who are in need?

Q How might mission change in your congregation if you offered the best to others? If you approached mission with an attitude of abundance?

#### **Call to worship**

God's faithfulness is as high as the clouds.

**God's love stretches everywhere.**

God's righteousness is as tall as the biggest mountains.

**God's love stretches everywhere.**

God's justice is as deep as the ocean.

**God's love stretches everywhere.**

God's love is big enough for everyone.

**Come, let us worship the God whose gifts flow abundantly.**

**Sentence:** Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

*John 2:11*

**Collect:** God of Feast and community, Jesus blessed a wedding, and turned water into wine. Let our lives bless you, and our work reveal the wine of your presence. 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.** Isa 62:1-5, 1 Cor 12:1-11, 1 John 2:1-11

**Hymns:** All the hungry, all the thirsty (Ode to Joy), Rejoice for God has called us vs 1,2,8, HTC 403 For the bread, HTC 231 Come down O love divine

#### **Readings for January**

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10, 1 Corinthians y 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

#### **Love Bouquet**

Jesus shows us that God has so much love to share. Heart shapes are often used to show love. Make some heart flowers to share in God's love by giving friends and family heart flowers.

Materials • Drinking straws • Paper drinking cups • Markers • Several heart shapes in a variety of sizes (5 to 10 cm/ 2 to 4 in) cut from construction paper

Instructions 1. Decorate several hearts with markers, stickers, and glitter glue. 2. Tape a straw to the back of each heart. 3. Write on the cups "Hearts to show how much God cares." 4. Arrange your flower shapes in the cup. 5. Invite friends and family to choose a heart flower.

#### **Notices**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January: 11am** Combined Deanery Picnic at Sandy and Daves' Home, East Taieri. Bring your own picnic.

Our regular Sunday Services are Vaccine Pass required services. To make arrangements for No passport required worship and pastoral care please contact Jan Clark 455-6032, 0273515171.