

Southern Coastal Deanery

15th & 22nd January, 2023
2nd and 3rd Sundays of the Epiphany

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.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Anne, Anne G, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Gerald, Jean V, Jim & Eleanor L, Joan F, Jenny M, Mike, Muriel and family, Lysiane, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Nick D, Pat C, Philip, Rex & Rachel, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S, Wayne.

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays
Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays
Mornington 9.30am

Except for the 3rd Sunday when we have 4pm Soup & Communion
St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek service

Wednesday @ 1pm at Holy Cross recommence on Feb 8th

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

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Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

Called Together Sunday 15th January

Many of us struggle to find meaning in a culture that often values productivity and possession above a sense of vocation and being. To what do we give our strength? What grabs our attention and makes us curious?

The prophet of **Isaiah 49:1–7** grabs our attention with the summons, "listen to me...pay attention." Written following the defeat of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, by the Babylonians in 587 BCE, Isaiah 40–50 is commonly referred to as Second Isaiah. This section of the book of Isaiah has four passages, identified as Servant Songs. They tell about the call of God's servant and chosen one.

The servant here is the prophet, or perhaps Israel itself, called to spend their strength for the important task of doing God's will. God calls the prophet to proclaim to a people in exile in Babylon that God is faithful and will restore them. The Hebrew people begin to see a glimmer of hope after long years away from Judah and Jerusalem.

The prophet describes his vocation – God knew him before his birth and has given him powerful words to proclaim God's message. The story follows a pattern common to Hebrew prophets: there is a strong sense of a task God wants the prophet to fulfill, and there is a point when the prophet feels vulnerable. Brené Brown explains how vulnerability is at the core of emotions such as fear, self-doubt, comparison, anxiety, uncertainty, grief, disappointment. Still, vulnerability is also the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, trust, empathy, creativity, innovation. So it is for this prophet and Israel.

The call is repeated as God promises to do even greater works. This is a story of a call – being called and known, experiencing failure to live up to the call, hope remaining strong, and being called with a greater purpose. God's light is to shine on all. Regardless of the people's early success or failure, God is faithful. The servant maintains hope in God.

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

God's faithfulness is never in doubt in

In **1 Corinthians 1:1–9**, Paul speaks of his call and reminds the Corinthian church that God has called them to be saints in community with Christ. God gives strength and spiritual gifts to be used by each who are a part of this wide call. God is faithful and will continue to strengthen, empowering people to live in service to God's call.

John 1:29–42 tells the story of Jesus' baptism as a prelude to the call of the disciples. Many prophets and teachers had disciples who accompanied them and listened to their teaching. Jesus' first disciples are disciples of John. They are drawn to learn more about the one whom John calls "the Lamb of God." Jesus invites them to "come and see." Andrew answers that call by finding his brother Simon Peter and bringing him to Jesus. Together they answer the call.

Sentence: God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9

Collect: Almighty God, give us such a vision of your purpose and such an assurance of your love and power, that we may ever hold fast the hope which is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Cor. 1:1-9, John 1:29-42.

Hymns: HTC 270 New every morning, HTC 99 As with gladness, HTC 104 Jesus calls us in the tumult. Norfolk Island Blessing

Following the Call Sunday 22nd January, 2023

Following Christ's call is risky and full of uncertainty. The Season after the Epiphany invites us to journey into the choices and changes that mark the lives of those who follow in God's ways – and discern together what it means to follow Jesus today.

Isaiah 9:1–4 marks a hinge point in God's relationship with the people who live in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. Here the prophet speaks of the light of a new king, probably referring to a new prince born after 732 BCE, following a time of war. This king was to inaugurate a time of peace and justice. The four verses open with a promise that "there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish." The land that was brought into contempt will be made glorious. Speaking in the past tense, verses 2–4 speak as if the transformation has already taken place.

Matthew 4:12–23 is full of risk and uncertainty. Jesus has gone to Galilee to gather disciples and reaches out to Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew. His call to follow sounds absurd and abrupt. It may be helpful to note that the writer of Matthew relates significant events in the story of Jesus without necessarily indicating the passage of time. Jesus speaks, and the fishers respond. These brothers change the direction in their lives and follow. Andrew and Simon have no idea what they are following Jesus for. "I will make you fish for people," does not offer clarity. Questions raised by this text are numerous. Why these two people? Why this community? Why fishers and not someone else? This move by Andrew and Simon must have seemed impulsive at best and foolish at worst. What was it like for Zebedee, to watch his children, James and John, make what may appear to be a foolish and impulsive decision to follow a stranger and leave behind their responsibilities for providing for family and community? What is a parent's response to such choices? Within this one passage, all the elements of Jesus' earthly ministry are included: proclaiming the presence of God's reign, teaching, healing, and calling disciples. An indication of the way Jesus ministers is found here, too. Matthew portrays Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's description of God's faithful and peaceful servant. Jesus' actions indicate God's new ways and set a model for the church and all who seek to follow Jesus.

Paul calls the Christians in Corinth in **1 Corinthians 1:10–18** to change direction and be united in outlook. This miracle is possible, Paul believes, because of God's saving grace. Paul calls them to follow in God's ways, secure in the knowledge that they belong to Christ. Living into the unfolding vision of God will change the community of faith.

Sentence:

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. Matthew 4:23

Collect: Almighty God, your Son revealed in signs and wonders the greatness of your saving love; renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Cor. 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

Hymns: HTC 58 Jesus hope of every nation, HTC 491 Christ from whom all blessings flow, HTC 408 I come with joy to meet my Lord, HTC 583 Praise the Lord you heavens adore him.

For Personal reflection Pope Francis reminds us that “being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.” Q Take a walk through your community this week and notice where the love of Jesus might be needed. Q Being “constantly ready” might give any one of us pause. Spend some time this week practicing an extra bit of self-care so that you can be ready to love others.

Blessing for the season of Epiphany.

Go now, beloved, to follow the love of God to be surprised by God’s wonder to lift your voice for love and compassion. Dare to believe that you are people on a mission of healing and grace. Feel God’s encouragement to be a blessing as you offer blessings with your heart and hands and know that you never, ever go alone. Amen.

Notices:

Deanery vestry Discussion Night Tuesday 25th January, 7.30pm

Vestry have been reading, Neil Darragh’s book, ‘But what is the Church for? What is the Mission of the local Church?’ We are beginning 2023 discussing Darragh’s ideas and asking God to help us discern the way forward for the mission we are called to.

Deanery Council (Vestry) holds the first business meeting of the year on **Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm** at St Mark’s green Island.

Southern Coastal Deanery Picnic – Sunday 29th January, 2023 at Dave and Sandy’s home East Taieri. Gather for worship at 11am. Bring your own picnic. Don’t forget the sunscreen, while weather forced us to move to an inside venue at St Mark’s last year let pray for a sunny, warm day for 2023.

Friday Light restarts on the 20th January, at St Luke’s Mosgiel. Doors open at 5.45pm. Please pray as this ministry gets underway for 2023. (Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. All welcome.

Brighton Quiet Day



First Retreat of the year
Friday 27th January 2023

These quiet days are self directed. Each day starts at 10am with a short set of prayers.

The rest of the day is your own with God. We normally gather at the end of the session (this time 4pm) for a short debrief and prayer as we leave.

Tea and Coffee provided. Bring your own food requirements

For those who can afford it a Koha is welcome

To Book a place text Alec on 0274 368 799

St Margaret’s Anglican Church Brighton
4 Seaview Road, Brighton