

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator– Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Diocesan Council.

For those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Pray for the aftermath of the Christchurch and Sri Lanka terrorist attacks.

Those who are sick: Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gerald, Graham, Helen, Jan Y, Jean V, Jesse Bessant, Jim L, Keith M, Les, Louise, Lysiane, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Pat G, Peggy, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Stephen, Stewart, Tim, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire & Sue J

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)

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

Mornington 9.30a.m.

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

Midweek service

Wednesday, 1pm @ Holy Cross

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

Regional Dean: Jan Clark 455-6032 or 027 3515171

janclark8260@gmail.com

Administrator: Phone 488-0020 email to janclark8260@gmail.com

Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden:

Southern Coastal Deanery

12th May, 2019

4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture links our identity to the identity of God. If we are made in the image and likeness of God, as Genesis tells us, then the image we have of God matters a great deal. If we perceive God as a controlling patriarch, this ideology shapes our identity. If, however, our image of God is of one who overturns the status quo, disturbs the tower builders and those who insist on a monolithic language and culture, we are more likely to develop an identity that resists systems that oppress. The resurrection of Christ is God's response to the domination of Rome and therefore shapes the character of all who live as faithful disciples of Christ.

Acts 9:36–43 “Now in Joppa, there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.” What is your identity? How shall you be known? These are the questions with which Tabitha lived. They are also questions for the early church, to whom Acts is written, and questions for the church today. Tabitha is the Aramaic name linking her to her ancestors Abraham and Sarah who trusted God would lead them to new life, Moses and Miriam who led the people out of slavery, the prophets who proclaimed the justice and compassion of God. Tabitha was a follower of Jesus the Christ, who was from this same prophetic lineage, was executed by the Roman empire yet remained a source of resurrection life for all who believed.

Dorcas is her Greek name, the official language of the Roman Empire. Establishing a bicultural identity was a necessity for Dorcas, as it is whenever people live in a dominating culture that continually privileges language, art, music, and how one is named in order to gain access and advantage. Dorcas knows how to navigate in that world, no doubt using her tailoring skills to make a living in the economy of Roman control, but also resisting the hierarchy and its exclusive domination by ministering to women routinely overlooked.

Dorcas' acts are life-giving. But, now Tabitha/Dorcas has died, and once again the haunting questions arise? If this disciple of resurrection life has died, what does that say about the resurrection itself? Is her

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

stand in a Roman, patriarchal, dominated world for naught? Is there anyone who will stand up for the widows, poor, oppressed? In their grief, do these widows have any reason for hope or has hope died with the one they know as Dorcas? It is into this grief and despair that Peter enters. After clearing the room, Peter draws upon resurrection power, calling forth Tabitha to continue giving witness to resurrection compassion and resistance. "Tabitha, get up."

Peter also knows how to live a bicultural identity, travelling the roads made by empire when needed but also standing firm in the power of resurrection when required. Today is a day for standing firm in his identity, in Tabitha's identity, in resurrection identity. There is no magic at work, but rather the simple power of resurrection life that refuses to be snuffed out by circumstances or oppressive systems.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen, **He is risen indeed Alleluia.**

Call to worship

Do you know who you are?

We are those who resist fear, courageously walking in the valley of darkness, knowing we are never alone.

Do you know who you are?

We are those who resist all manner of violence, trusting in the way of the Christ

Do you know who you are?

We are those who resist conforming to the demands and norms of injustice, putting our trust in the One who says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

Do you know who you are?

We are those who have been given a new identity in the resurrected Christ and known through the love we share.

Then let us rise up in worship and service to the God of justice and compassion for surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

Opening prayer Shepherd of Life, we enter this time of worship in need of the green pasture of your grace, which provides rest and renewal for the work that lies before us. The still waters of your peace calm our anxious spirits. The word of your rod and the wisdom of your staff is the strength and comfort we need to journey through the valley. Even in the face of suffering and injustice, you fill our spirits with the

abundance of your love, and you anoint us in service to bring this hope to the world. This is the place we would dwell our whole life long. Amen.

Sentence: The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:17*

Collect: Alleluia, King Eternal; our guide and our protector: in troubles and uncertainty, lead us; in fearfulness and hardship, secure us; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings: Acts 9:36-43, Rev 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Hymns: HTC 13 All creatures of our God and King, HTC S17 Jesus is Lord, HTC 414 Let us talents and tongues employ, HTC 44 The King of Love,

Notices

Tuesday 14th May: 10.30am Home communion, 3pm Oasis, 4pm Health & Wellness group meets at St Kilda. **7.30pm ALLM meeting at St Mark's.**

Wednesday 15th May: 1pm Eucharist at Holy Cross, 6pm Archdeaconry meeting,

Thursday 16th May: F & V distribution St Mark's 10.30am-11.30am, St Kilda 4pm-5.30pm, 7.15pm EfM

Anglican Family Care have had a 'Wish List' request from their Family Start Team for some help securing some books for our Family/Whanau Workers to share with babies and young children to help our families support their child(ren)'s development.

Please see the "Wish List" on the noticeboard and contact Donna at AFC if you are able to help. Donna Davidson 027 588 2423 | 03 474 7415

Anglican Family Care : Our designer clothes fundraiser is all go! Hosted by The Wardrobe (203 King Edward Street), there's something for everyone. 23rd May, 6-9pm