

### **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 peace in Ukraine.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Anne, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Elizabeth, Gary Griffith-Smith, Gerald, Gerald J, Ginny, Grant W, Finn, Jean V, Jim L, Joan F, Jenny M, Malcolm, Mike, Muriel and family, Lysiane, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S.

# **Southern Coastal Deanery**

15<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

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

### **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.**

**Except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

### **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  
[janclark8260@gmail.com](mailto:janclark8260@gmail.com)

Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

## **Boundary Breaking**

The Spirit breaks open the community of Christ to move in new ways. The texts this week offer a new vision for God's people and for all of creation. Where the Spirit leads, the church is called to follow in love.

**Acts 11:1-18** The story of Acts has steadily moved to the church becoming more inclusive. Pentecost was a prelude to the welcome of Samaritan believers, of the Ethiopian official, and now of the "God-fearing," gentile Cornelius and his household. Peter reports to the Jerusalem elders that this is the work of the Spirit. Criticism of Peter gives way to praise of God.

The dietary codes set out in Leviticus 14 had defined what could and could not be eaten by followers of Judaism. In verse 6, Peter describes the animals he saw in his vision, coupled with the command to "kill and eat." The animals listed by Peter are not all "unclean." There is no distinction made between those that are "clean" and those that are not. Peter's naming of these animals parallels lists in Genesis 1:24 and 1:26. The summaries of God's creatures are followed closely by the declaration that all are "very good." That goodness of all creation is also a key element of this passage in Acts.

"Profane" is the centrepiece of Peter's initial objection to the vision. It is a word with various meanings. Peter uses it in the sense of something that is not holy. The more general meaning of the Greek word used here, *koinos*, is "common." This same word is the root of *koinonia*. As used in Acts and the epistles, *koinonia* serves as a synonym for the Christian community. *Koinonia* refers to the "common life" shared by those who follow the way of Jesus. Peter thought there was something wrong with things that are "common," yet our life within the Body of Christ is "common."

Peter appears before the Jerusalem believers, some of whom have taken exception to the mission to the Gentiles. It is not the first time, nor

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

will it be the last, that witnesses to Jesus find themselves questioned. Earlier, it had been by the Sanhedrin. Here and in Acts 15, it is by a council of Christian leaders. Later, it will be by local magistrates and Roman officials. Whatever the context, one central issue remains the same. How will those in authority balance commitment to tradition with openness to hearing a new word?

**Revelation 21:1–6** The author of Revelation celebrates God's working of a new creation. A new heaven and new earth invite a fresh perspective and bring hope.

Love as the touchstone of God's nature and activity stands at the core of **John 13:31–35**. On the cusp of betrayal by one of his disciples, Jesus gives a new commandment, "love one another" (v. 34). The term "commandment" recalls God's covenant with Moses. The new world – the new covenant – that Jesus ushers in is marked by love and serving rather than by betrayal and violence. Revelation 21:4 gives witness to such love. In tenderness, God's love wipes away our tears. In power, God's love destroys death. Such love returns us to Acts, where all find a place in community by the grace of God's love.

God has done, and still does, new things in our midst. God seeks individuals and communities willing to risk new ways of seeing and receiving. How can we open ourselves to welcome the still emerging and unfolding story of God's gracious actions in our time? In what new ways might Jesus' command to love take shape for you and your faith community?

### **Easter Acclamation**

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

**Opening prayer** We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation and the surprise of re-creation. Open our eyes to see new things. Open our minds to think fresh thoughts. Open our communities to welcome new partners. Open our spirits to follow your Spirit.

**Sentence:** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another. *John 13:34*

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

Alleluia, God Eternal, love marks your presence. Plant in us your love, nurture in us your likeness, and let us reflect your glory. For you are

alive and reigns with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings.** Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

**Hymns:** HTC 217 Love Divine, NJ 14 Be still and know, NJ 136 Take our bread, HTC S 26 The new commandment

### **Readings for 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022**

**Acts 16:9-15, Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29**

### **Notices**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May;** 4pm Soup and Communion at St Mary's.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May;** 10am Senior Staff meeting, 3pm Oasis After School Group at St Mark's. 5.30pm SJC meets via ZOOM, 7.30 Scope

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May;** 1pm Eucharist at Holy Cross, Home communions, 7.30pm Link Group

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May;** Fruit & Veg distribution 10.30am – 11.30am at GI, 4-5.30pm at Holy Cross.

7.15pm Study Group at Holy Cross, All Welcome.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May;** Boundaries Course

**Advance Notice:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May; Rev. Alister Hendery will lead a ZOOM session on Losing and Grieving at 7.15pm. See flyer for details. All are welcome to join this online session.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Southern Coastal Deanery Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 following a combined Deanery Service at Holy Cross, 5 Bellona St, St Kilda at 10.30am.

The meeting will receive the annual reports, adopt a budget, and elect Church Wardens, vestry members and other officers. If you have items for the agenda, please let the Wardens know or contact Jan Clark. Reports will be available next Sunday.