

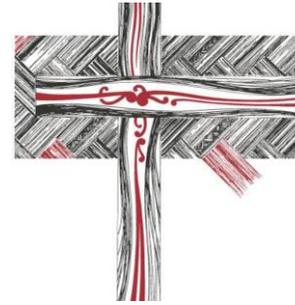
Please pray for:

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

Give thanks for the life of Yvonne Dow and pray for her family.

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



Southern Coastal Deanery

25th July, 2021 - Ordinary Sunday 17

Social Services Sunday

God's abundant presence sustains us in all circumstances. God provides more than we need – food, faith, grace, salvation. We are called to respond to God's activity among us, ordering our lives in ways that proclaim and extend God's abundant gifts to others.

2 Samuel 11:1–15 God acted in David's life with an abundance that sustained David. Yet David wants more. David exhibits arrogance and deceit and uses his power and authority for selfish ends. God's grace is sufficient, and God will not abandon David, but in this situation, David abandons God. The consequences are bitter for all involved.

John 6:1–21 Miracle stories are well-known, and many theories and ideas abound about how things worked out as they did. However, perhaps these musings about whether miracles happen or not, sidestep what is most significant about the stories, which reveal more and more about the nature of Jesus and God.

The feeding of the five thousand is one of the few stories that appears in all four gospels. All gospels note the number of loaves and fish – five loaves, two fish – and each narrative holds a similarity that other stories common in all the gospels don't. It seems we should not underestimate the impact this event had in the lives of the disciples and so should give due consideration as to what it might say to us.

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, the feeding of the five thousand doesn't stand alone; it is linked with the story of Jesus walking on the water of a lake on a dark, stormy night.

These two stories are bound by the nature of those who are in the company of Jesus. In each circumstance, the people are in need. In the first story, it appears that the people dropped whatever they were doing and just joined the crowd following Jesus; they didn't think about anything other than the possibility of seeing a sign. While there is no

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays

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

Mornington 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays 10.30am

3rd Sunday 4pm Soup & Communion.

St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.30a.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

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Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

mention of hunger in this retelling, they are non the-less unprepared, and Jesus wants to feed them. In the second story, it is the disciples who are in need, as they are on a perilous journey on the lake. In both cases, there may not have been the need to intervene; a hungry crowd will finally disperse and go and find food, the disciples may well have managed the crossing even though they were scared. After all, there were some experienced fishermen on board, but it is the nature of God to be compassionate. Christ provides food for the hungry, comfort in times of fear, offers the words "I am here" and reassures the people, and us, that God is active in our lives.

God's grace is sufficient. The beautiful prayer for the church in **Ephesians 3:14–21** emphasizes that we are given all that is needed to live our faith.

What do we learn about the nature of God in these texts? We see that God is abundantly generous, does not abandon us, and God's reconciling power is at work within us, and "is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). That takes some serious thinking.

Call to worship

Today, we gather to worship God who is generous, who provides more than enough even if we feel we don't deserve it.

Today, we gather to worship God, who is generous.

Opening prayer God who is large enough to fill everything (no matter how high, or broad, or long, or deep), we worship you today. God who can ease into small spaces and find us when we need you, we worship you today. God who is alongside your people, we worship you today. Amen.

Sentence: Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my saving right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Collect: Generous God, you show compassion to the hungry and needy, grant us the grace to share freely of our limited resources. Help us to value every contribution offered and to give and receive graciously of your love. For you are alive and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings. 2 Sam 11:1-15, Eph 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

Hymns: All the hungry, all the thirsty, NJ 166 Will you let me be your servant, HTC 602 we come as guests invited, HTC 360 Father, hear the prayer we offer,

Notices

Tuesday 27th July: 3pm Oasis after school group , resumes for term 3. 5.30pm Home of St Barnabas Board.

Wednesday 28th July; 9.30am Meeting, 11am GGICN, 1pm Midweek Communion @ Holy Cross, 7.30pm Combined parishes conversation at St Nicolas.

Thursday 29th July; 10.30am-11.30am Fruit & vege Distribution Green Island, 4-5.30pm F & V at St Kilda, 1.30pm Sth D ministers meeting

Friday 30th July; 11am Home communion

Sunday 1st August; St Kilda and Mornington have short congregational meetings following the morning Eucharist.

Monday 2nd August; St Mary's Fellowship. Speaker Brian Coutts of the NZ Piping Association on his involvement with the Edinburgh Tattoo.

The practice of intercessory prayer

The Roman playwright known as Terence (185–159 BC) is credited with some of our everyday sayings: "Future favours the brave"; "Where there's life, there's hope"; "Time heals all wounds." He also has a famous "I am" statement – **"I am human; therefore, nothing relating to humanity is outside of my concern."** With the mind and focus of Christianity, this can be seen as a call to intercession.

1. Light a candle and focus on the light.
2. Breathe quietly and deeply.
3. As you breathe, quietly say the words written in bold above, letting them take on the rhythm of your breath.
4. Keep doing this until you sense it is time to stop.
5. When you have finished your prayer, write what insights have come to you and particularly any actions you feel called to.
6. You may like to share these concerns and insights with your community and see if there is a common interest in addressing them