

# Southern Coastal Deanery

## 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 peace in Ukraine and other areas of conflict..

The Lambeth Conference, for Bp Steve and Lorraine.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Anne, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Gerald, Gerald J, Ginny, Grant W, Jan HV, Jean V, Jim & Eleanor 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, Gaelene.

## 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 10a.m. during winter**

**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)**

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Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

**7 August, 2022**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## Dynamic Faith

This week's texts encourage us to look to the example of faithful witnesses for the assurance we need to keep hoping and believing in justice and mercy. We glimpse the dynamic nature of faith and consider our call to reflect on and grow from the past for the sake of the future.

**Isaiah 1:1, 10–20** God calls the people to just and righteous living:

"Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Such faith is not just a personal experience; it is the work of a community that lives with faithfulness to God's ways.

**Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16** The letter to the Hebrews comes from an unknown author, addressed to a Christian community that seems to have grown passive in their commitment to Christ. Hebrews 11 begins by defining faith: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (v. 1). The rest of Hebrews 11 gives examples of faith.

The writer lifts up Abraham and Sarah as people who had faith even when they could not see indications of the reality of God's promises to them. When he was 75 years old, God called Abraham and made particular promises to Abraham and his wife Sarah (Genesis 12:1–3): through this aged, childless couple, a great nation would arise and bless all people of Earth. A new future was ahead, but they would need to leave their home and rely on God's leading. Although "very rich in livestock, silver, and gold" (Genesis 13:2), Abraham and Sarah did not find their security in such possessions. They set off in faith.

According to Genesis, Abraham and Sarah had significant doubts, especially concerning the promise of descendants. Still, they trusted, even though they would not live to see the full fruition of God's providing. The writer of Hebrews encourages disciples to respond to God's calling with faith like the faith of Sarah and Abraham, especially when they cannot see the rewards of the work or feel alienated. Faith in things unseen is active, not passive waiting.

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

Jesus calls us to lives of faithfulness, being ever ready to participate in the reign of God. Luke 12:32–40 follows on from the parable of the prosperous farmer and expands Jesus' teaching on the importance of focusing on the fullness of God's reign. Those prepared are willing to trust God's leading into the future, as were Sarah and Abraham. The prepared ones are those who strive to live faithfully  
Faith is more than belief. Rather, faith is about trust and loyalty and where we dare to invest ourselves. To say we have faith in God is to do more than say it – to have faith means to live a radically different way, trusting that tomorrow is taken care of in the providence of God. What does that say to how we live today? What impact might that have on your daily living?

**Connecting scripture and life** Put Hebrews 11:1 – “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” – somewhere where you can see it and reflect on it often. Q How do you find yourself living that phrase each day? Q What does your vision of the future call you to do and be now by faith?”

### **Call to worship**

All day long, God calls to Earth. **All day long, Earth answers.**  
The rivers run, and grasses blow, sand shifts and shifts again. Lava churns deep within Earth. All day long, God calls to Earth.

### **All day long, Earth answers.**

Ocean tides rush in and out, and creatures swim along. Trees bend and straighten, and mountains sing the song of the ancients. All day long, God calls to Earth. **All day long, Earth answers.**

Dusk to dawn, day to night, six days turn to seven. All day long, God calls to Earth. **All day long, Earth answers.**

God's people come together, friend and stranger. Let us join with all creation in praising our wondrous God. All day long, God calls to Earth.

**All day long, Earth answers. Come, let us worship God.**

### **Opening prayer**

The inner workings of our minds are amazing, God.  
Our thoughts and insights, actions and ideas create possibilities that become clearer and more defined as we look with intent in response to your call. As we gather together and look through the windows that open to life-giving, just, and faithful pathways, enlarge our faith that we might step beyond our places of comfort, assured that our actions will reveal your life-giving grace.  
Amen

**Sentence:** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

**Collect:** God our treasure, the reign of your love and justice is your gift; light our lamps against the darkness, and equip us for your action, so we are ready and do not miss your coming; 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.** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

### **Statement about faith**

Faith is... acting for good when we'd rather do nothing; siding with life when we'd rather play dead; speaking the truth when we'd rather be silent.

Faith is... noiselessly listening when we'd rather shout out; paying attention when we'd prefer not to notice; standing for right when we'd far rather keep walking.

Faith is... trusting that after the darkness there will be the light; seeing the rainbow as the sign of the sun; hearing the rooster crow as hope for the dawn.

Faith is... upsetting the comfortable status quo; unreasonable, irrational, a foretaste of heaven; the step at the edge to all that is good.

**Hymns:** HTC 9 The God of Abraham praise vs 1, 4, 6. HTC 328 Lord for the years vs 1,2,5, HTC 38 Praise my soul the king of heaven

### **Notices**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August;** 10.30am Dio Council, 3pm Oasis after school club

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August;** 1pm midweek communion, 2pm Home communions

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August;** Fruit & Vege distribution 10.30am – 11.30am at GI, 4-5.30pm at Holy Cross, 1pm Archdeaconry meeting, 2pm AAW at Holy Cross. Andrew Whiley from Estate of Grace is the speaker

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August;** 1.30pm Spiritual Direction

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August: 10.30am** St Mary's Patronal Festival followed by lunch at Equinox. If you wish to come to lunch, please register with Iona.