

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Anne Van Gend, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Council.

Those affected by the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle.

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

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

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

Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Mornington Warden: Felicity Sim 0274318213

St Kilda Co-Wardens: Gerald Harley 03 456-0573
Robin Versteeg 027 4710001

Southern Coastal Deanery

17 September,

ary Time

God acted to liberate the Hebrew people, and they responded with joyful celebration. They saw God's saving work and believed. Then, as now, God hears the cries of oppressed people and responds. This God is worthy of trust and loyalty. The gift of such compassion strengthens faith for the lifelong journey toward living in freedom in God's reign.

Exodus 14:19-31 continues the story of the Hebrews' journey to freedom. Following the Passover meal (Exodus 12), the Hebrews fled from their homes, stopping for instruction and consecration of the first-born (Exodus 13). They avoided the main military route between Egypt and Canaan; a daytime cloud and nighttime pillar of fire confirmed God's leading presence. When trapped in their campsite between the sea and the Egyptian army, Pharaoh seized the opportunity to recapture his escaped workforce.

In this week's passage, a cloud moves to protect the Hebrews as they camp by the sea. "Water walls" provide a dry crossing for the Hebrew slaves, but restored order to the sea brings devastating results. The storyteller shows that God is responsible for the freedom of the Hebrews. God-action frees and saves. The people see and believe. God-actions serve to continue the formation of the people of Israel, who grow in understanding that faith in God is well-placed.

Water is significant in stories of God's saving work. Water recalls God-work in creation, and the promise to Noah to never again destroy with water. Water also is a physical barrier. Water-crossing imagery is found in the story of Joshua, leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. Crossing through water becomes a metaphor for transformation – a symbol of God's deliverance. Water, as a sign and symbol, is used in baptism today as a means to rehearse God's freeing love through Jesus the Christ.

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

For modern readers, Exodus 14 often raises questions about the character of God. Couldn't God have saved the Egyptians, too? Remember that the storyteller who recorded the stories in Exodus was a person of that time and worldview. Pastor Martin Niemoeller, imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II, said, "It took me a long time to learn that God is not the enemy of my enemies. [God] is not even the enemy of [God's] enemies." A Jewish legend tells of God's words to an archangel, who was celebrating the defeat of the Egyptian army in the sea: "Why do you celebrate while the work of my hands is being destroyed?"

The Exodus stories explore God's relationship with the people of Israel. They help to shape them into a people with mission and charge. These stories become a lens for understanding later events in their history and shape their self-awareness, values, and faith. Their understanding of God as I AM ("I will cause to be") becomes clearer. The exodus journey is associated with God's grace, compassion, and salvation, and becomes a metaphor for hope.

For Jesus, the road to freedom was forgiveness. Jesus' story in **Matthew 18:21–25** lifts up the essence of God's law as God's gracious, extravagant, unlimited compassion. Paul, in Romans **14:1–12**, calls Christians to be accountable to Jesus' standards and example of forgiveness while living with confidence that we are God's. Jesus' disciples today continue to journey toward the freedom of God's reign, striving to live in ways that honour God. **Connecting with life** Q What are your experiences of stepping into an unknown future? Q What are some feelings associated with these times?

Call to worship Based on Psalm 114 and Exodus 15 One:
We worship God who caused the sea to look and flee.

God is our strength; we will praise God!

We worship God in whose presence the mountains and hills skipped.

God is our strength; we will praise God!

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Almighty, the One who turns rock into pools of water and flint into springs.

God is our strength; we will praise God!

Sentence: If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. *Psalm 130:34*

Collect: God of infinite mercy grant that we who know your pity may rejoice in your forgiveness and gladly forgive others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Readings: Exodus 14:19-31, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Hymns: HTC 595 Lead us heavenly, Father, lead us, HTC 9 The God of Abraham praise vs 1,3, 4, HTC S 19 Make me a channel of your peace, HTC 583 Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him.

Readings for Sunday 24th September

Exodus 16:2-15, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

NOTICES

Tuesday 19th Sept.: 11am GGICN, 3pm Oasis Messy Church

Wednesday 20th September 10am Taieri & Chatsford Services, 1pm Midweek communion at Holy Cross, 3pm Home Communion, 5.30pm Meditative/contemplative prayer. All welcome If you would like to know more please phone Maureen Harley 456 0573 (021 1071401),

Thursday 21st September: 10.30-11.30 am Fruit & vege distribution at St Marks. 4-5.30pm Fruit & Vege distribution at Holy Cross. 7.30pm Bible Study group meets in the hall. 9pm Lambeth Phase 3 webinar launching theme 2

Friday 22nd September: 10am-4pm Quiet Day at Brighton

Seekers' Day 2023

Are you wondering about exploring a new road in your Christian journey? The Diocesan Seekers' Day on 30 September 2023 (10am-3pm at Roxburgh is designed for you. A quiet day of listening to God and talking with others. So think about this, pray about this, and if you would like to come along please contact Anne Van Gend on enabler@calledsouth.org.nz.

Neurodiversity in the Church - Dunedin Workshop

Neurodiverse? Neurodivergent? Autism? ADHD? Inclusion? Accessibility? What does it all mean?

Event: Monday 25 September 2023 from 7-9 pm, at All Saints Dunedin 786 Cumberland Street (\$20) Please talk to Jan Clark for registration details.

Anglican Women Provincial Hui

This Hui is for women clergy and lay leaders in Auckland from 2 to 5 November 2023. This will take place at Tatai Hono Marae, Holy Sepulchre Church, Khyber Pass Road, Auckland.

More information can be found at

<https://anglicanwomen.nz/anglican-womens-hui-2-5-november-2023/>

- The registration fee is only \$150, for three amazing days, including accommodation and food.
- Registrations close on 1 October 2023.

Spring Saturdays: Online Ministry Training

An invitation to all Lay Ministers and interested Clergy.....

Session 1

Saturday 7 October 10am – noon

Rev Dr Graham Redding on Pastoral Care

Rev Natalie Milliken on Grief and Loss

Session 2

Saturday 4 November 10am – noon

Ven Dr Anne Van Gend on Intercessions

Lay Ministers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities for learning more about vital aspects of our life and ministry as followers of Jesus. However, all are welcome – lay or ordained!

Join using the following link:

Zoom <https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/96566464225>



The Lambeth Calls – Phase 3.

The Lambeth Conference met in Canterbury in 2022. The theme was to explore what it means to be 'God's Church for God's World'. Our conference journey continues as we take forward the Lambeth Calls and outcomes of the conference into the life of the Anglican Communion. Add your voice to the call is an invitation to explore, discuss and consider what each Call might mean in your setting. It's shaped by the idea of call and response – a feature we see in scripture, in liturgy and in music.

The next webinar being held on the 20th Sept (London Time – there is a helpful link so you can choose NZ time) is on the topic; Environment and Sustainable Development. To register for the Phase 3 webinars go to the following page: <https://www.lambethconference.org/phase-3/>