

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.

Children & teachers as a new term begins.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Anne, Anne G, Ashley, Baby Wanrooy, Bev, Bill, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Gerald, Jean V, Jim & Eleanor L, Joan F, Jenny M, Mike, Muriel and family, Lysiane, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Nick D, Pat C, Philip, Rex & Rachel, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S, Wayne.

29th January, 2023

4th Sunday of the Epiphany

Beautiful Vision

Today, we begin a three-week exploration of a collection of Jesus' sayings in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' radical vision of what God's reign on earth might look like is a vision of wholeness for all people. Paul reminds us that God's wisdom is different from worldly wisdom.

The prophet in **Micah 6:1–8** begins his proclamation in a manner designed to get the attention of those around him. Making over-the-top public displays of faith and spoken word was standard practice for the religious leaders of the time. While the prophet's words are overly dramatic, they don't bolster the religious elite but instead disrupt the status quo. For the Israelites, these words reminded them of God's faithfulness and the blessings God bestowed upon them in their unfaithfulness or in their times of need. Verse 8 summarizes: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In **1 Corinthians 1:18–31**, Paul contrasts foolishness and wisdom. The people of Corinth seem to judge themselves by the world's standards rather than by God's standards. For the people of Corinth and for us, God's way is reimagining a better reality, a better way of living into the fullness of who we are called to be as disciples of Christ. In Christ, we are strengthened to participate in God's reign of justice and peace.

The vision known as the Beatitudes in **Matthew 5:1–12** presented for the Christian community in Matthew's gospel is both beautiful and challenging.

Jesus calls a group of disciples. They travel throughout Galilee, sharing the good news that God's realm is breaking into the world. It is a message that the gospel writer's community desperately needs to hear. The gospel of Matthew speaks to a group of new Christians after a

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 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 recommence on Feb 8th

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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disaster. The temple has been destroyed and the people scattered. Jesus is no longer present in the flesh. What laws will govern the community now? What is the good news for those trying to be faithful in a hostile world?

Jesus goes through a litany of statements regarding who are blessed. There is urgency in Jesus' teaching. He uses the present tense in this series of sentences beginning with the word blessed, or happy in some translations. Blessing is God's gift, a sign of covenant relationship with God. Jesus teaches that the blessed ones are those who are humble of heart ("poor in spirit"), who are gentle, who show mercy, who hunger and thirst for God's ways. Those who mourn will be comforted; those who make peace will be called God's children. Those persecuted in the cause of justice will find themselves part of God's transforming reality. In Jesus' coming, God's love is revealed and made manifest. This teaching is directed to the disciples, to the Twelve and the larger group of men and women who accompany Jesus. The Beatitudes describe the way of life for those who commit themselves to follow. For the community of the gospel of Matthew, this beautiful vision is what life should be like.

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The opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount turn the way of the world on its head, and we are called to prepare our hearts to hear this with fresh ears. We glimpse a re-imagined realm where the meek inherit the earth and the merciful receive mercy.

Reading Matthew 5:1–12 alongside the other scriptures for this week, we hear that God's transforming love often comes through liberation, and we are challenged to see God's unbinding of conventions as an act of liberation for the poor in spirit and those who mourn.

During these three weeks, when we immerse ourselves in the Sermon on the Mount – the vision, beauty, wisdom, and anticipation that was and is Jesus' teaching to the world – it is important to loosen our grip on some of the conventions we hold most dear, in order to see God's reality and in order to experience the liberating love that God offers. To awaken to God's reality and love, we must be willing to see the world differently and see ourselves in a new light.

Sentence: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Collect: Teach us, Jesus, how to live and worship without being worldly or greedy. Drive from our lives what spoils them and make us temples of the Holy Spirit; for the glory of your holy name. Amen

Readings: Micah 6:1-8, Ps 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-end, Matthew 5:1-12

Hymns: no hymns this week we are outside.

Readings for Sunday 5th February

Isaiah 58:1-9a, 1 Cor. 2:1-12, Matt. 5:13-20

Notices:

Sunday 29th January: Southern Coastal Deanery Picnic – at Dave and Sandy's home Riccarton Road, East Taieri. Gather for worship at 11am. Bring your own picnic. Don't forget the sunscreen, while weather forced us to move to an inside venue at St Mark's last year let pray for a sunny, warm day for 2023. **Thank you Sandy and Dave for sharing your beautiful property with us.**

4pm Installation of Rev Rose Scott as Priest in Charge at Port Chalmers.

Tuesday 31st January: 10.30am **meeting.**
5.30pm St Barnabas Board Meeting.

Wednesday 1st February: 9am Meeting with GGICN community workers.

2pm Home communions

7.30pm Deanery Council (Vestry) holds the first business meeting of the year at St Mark's Green Island.

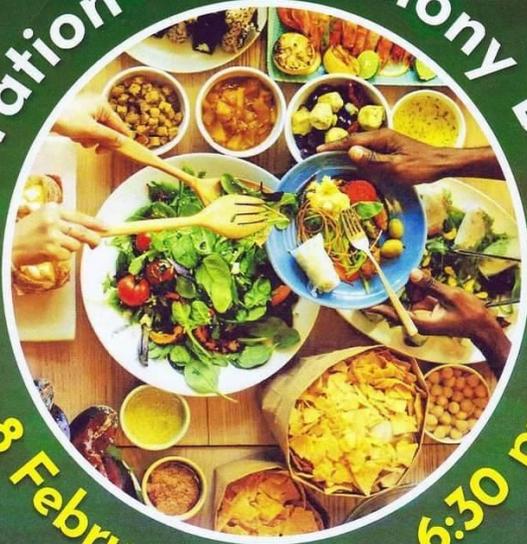
Thursday 2nd February: 1pm Sth D Ministers meeting,
7.30pm Bible Study group at Holy Cross.

Advance Notice: Layministers Training Day 25th February in Balclutha.



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

Celebration of Harmony Dinner



8 February 2023 - 6:30 pm

- VEGETARIAN POTLUCK:** Bring a vegetarian meal or dessert to share
- WHANAU-FRIENDLY:** Face-painting and other activities will be provided
- FEATURING:** Musical items, guest speakers readings, and more.

Everyone is Welcome!

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
14 Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin