

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator— Alec Clark, Diana Abercrombie, the Diocesan office staff and Diocesan Council.
For those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Give thanks for the life of Russell Devlin and pray for his family.
Those who are sick: Agnes, Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Celine, Alaric & Liam, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gerald, Graham, Jan Y, Jean V, Jesse Bessant, Jim L, Keith M, Les, Lysiane, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Max, Murray, Pat G, Peggy, Philip, Ross, Sarah, Sharron M, Stewart, Susie, Tim, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire J

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)

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

Mornington 9.30a.m.

St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek service

Wednesday, 1pm @ 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 17 Ajax St. St Kilda

Southern Coastal Deanery web page: scd.org.nz

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Regional Dean's Warden: Helen Humphrey 488-2696

Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St. Kilda Warden: Robin Versteeg 471-0001

Southern Coastal Deanery

7th October, 2018.

Ordinary Sunday 27

Today's readings are divisive and bring up difficult issues, such as divorce, heteronormative roles, and the place of children in worship and ministry. Such issues have divided families, communities of faith, denominations and ecumenical movements. How do we address such painful issues in the community, while journeying on God's way together?

Focus scripture: Mark 10:2–16 A few Pharisees intentionally asked Jesus a question about a hot topic, marriage, hoping to expose faults in Jesus' thinking, and to make others question, and perhaps stop, following him. It likely had very little to do with divorce and more to do with coaxing Jesus into making a statement that would get him in trouble. Unfortunately, this context is often removed from modern interpretations of this text, allowing people to use this passage to affirm heterosexuality and heteronormative gender roles.

The Pharisees ask: Is divorce permitted? The answer is yes. At the time divorces happened regularly and without much thought to women, whose identities and social status were unjustly attached to their husbands. It could be argued that Jesus is challenging this unfair system of divorce by saying that men and women are one, or are equal, "and the two shall become one flesh."

Jesus points out that Moses permitted divorce because of people's "hardness of heart." In other words, because we are not yet as we will be, our relationships will from time to time fail. While Jesus states that "whatever God has joined together no one should separate," this statement brings up many more questions such as: If a relationship breaks down, was it in fact joined by God in the first place? If God made man and woman as one, why do we separate, or even try to define or distinguish between sexes?

Jesus goes on to point out that both the man and the woman commit adultery if they divorce. This is a radical statement because at the time

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

adultery was a crime against a man and there was no provision for a woman to divorce a man. Again, perhaps Jesus is affirming equality between people, or perhaps the elimination of such binary thinking. Directly after talking about the equality of people in marriage, Jesus again challenges societal norms by welcoming and blessing children. In the time of Jesus children, like women, were a marginalized and dominated group. Arguably children were the most vulnerable and least valued members of society. By welcoming and blessing children, Jesus is embracing and caring for the most oppressed. When Jesus states, "whoever does not enter the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it," it is possible that he is not only speaking of the idealized qualities of a child but of a child's social location.

Call to worship

Come gather in the house of God's dwelling.

Come sing loud songs of thanksgiving; come proclaim God's wondrous deeds;

come gather in God's house to worship

Opening prayer

God of the journey, we have chosen to follow your way of justice and peace. It is not a straight or easy path, and there are many obstacles in our way, but your steadfast love is before us, ever guiding us onward. May we continue to follow your lead faithfully, with our whole selves, never losing faith in our goal. Amen.

Sentence of the Day:

Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. *Mark 10:15*

Prayer of the Day: Inclusive God, your love is offered to the vulnerable and the powerful and knows no limits; open our eyes to recognise where our words and actions exclude others, and by your Spirit turn us to new action, embracing all with unity and care, that your kingdom may be revealed, through Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Readings Job 1:1;2:1-10, Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

Hymns: HTC 38 Praise my soul the king of heaven, HTC S 4 Bind us together, HTC 414 Let us talents and tongues employ,

HTC 217 Love divine,

Notices:

Tuesday 9th October: Oasis is on break for the school holidays, please continue to pray for the children and their families. 4pm Health & Wellness @ Holy Cross,

Wednesday 10th October: 1pm No Midweek Eucharist @ Holy Cross, **Thursday 11th October:** Fruit & Vege distribution 10.30am – 11.30am St Mark's Green Island, 4pm – 5.30pm Holy Cross St Kilda. 2pm Home Communion, 7pm EfM

Friday 12th October: 11am GGICN meeting, 12.30pm Official Opening of the Family Recreation Area in Green Island.

The Cathedral is looking for more Saturday morning volunteers to help welcome visitors from all over the world.

This is a great way to give back to the city! Volunteers are rostered on from 10am until 1pm once or twice every 3 months, and are based in the Cathedral shop. Training and orientation is provided. If you are interested in helping or finding out more, please contact the Cathedral office, 477 2336, office@stpauls.net.nz

Service for Blessing of the Animals St Paul's Cathedral Sunday 7th October 2018 2pm

Please pick up your parish magazine and if you are able take some to deliver to those who live nearby as well.

Bible Society “Bake for Bibles” We have easy access to the scriptures in NZ and perhaps don't appreciate what it is like for our brothers and sisters in other countries. This year the Bible Society has a fundraising and awareness raising campaign running called 'Bake for Bibles'



If you would like to help with this campaign talk to Jan. The Bible Society have provided cookie cutters and a recipe for Shortbread plus some packaging. Lets join together to put Bibles in the hands of people in China