

**Please pray for:**

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Council.  
For the global effort to contain the Covid19 pandemic  
For those whose anniversaries fall at this time.  
Pray for the Cathedral community after the fire

Those who are sick: Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Chris, Claire Christie, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Doris M, Ellen, Eric, Gary Griffith-Smith, Graham, Helen P, Jan HV, Jan Y, Jean V, Jim L, Les & Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Faye & Stewart, Ruby, Val S, Valda M, Yvonne B,

**Worship Schedule**

**Brighton 10.30a.m. 11 Oct & 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Green Island 10.30a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18 Oct**

**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 5 Bellona St. St Kilda

***Southern Coastal Deanery web page: [scd.org.nz](http://scd.org.nz)***

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Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

# Southern Coastal Deanery

**25<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.**

**Ordinary Sunday 30**

This week's scripture passages speak to the power of love; giving us vision, bringing joy in times of struggle, shaping us as a community, and grounding our faith in a practice that confronts injustice with a bold but straightforward proposition: love.

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12** If ever there was a time for Moses to experience heartbreaking disappointment, the events in this week's reading is such a time. Moses has invested his entire adult life leading the people on a long 40-year journey through the wilderness. Again and again the people lost faith, breaking covenant with each other and God, believing the certainty of imperial oppression was better than the uncertainty of this wilderness journey. In spite of their betrayals, Moses remained an unfailing advocate for the people, never relinquishing the vision of freedom that God had given him and the people. The journey, however, was enough to exhaust and deplete the most dedicated and faithful of leaders.

Now, Moses finds himself on a mountaintop, looking out at the promised land, having been told by God that this is where his journey will end. There will be for Moses no celebratory crossing of the Jordan River. There will be no tasting the ripe, juicy grapes and the sweet honey about which they had dreamed as they wandered in the wilderness, munching on the same old manna, day after day. All Moses was offered is a vision of the promised land. Yet, according to the text, the vision seems to be more than enough. You can almost hear Moses say, as Martin Luther King Jr. would say years later, just before his assassination, "I have seen the promised land, I may not get there with you, but I want you to know, that we as a people, will get to the promised land."

Moses has every reason to feel exhausted, tired, discouraged and heartbroken, but we are told: "his sight was unimpaired, and his vigour had not abated." For Moses, the vision of the promised land was never limited to the physical territory the people were about to enter. The

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promised land resided in the promise of freedom and justice for all people. This is something the Israelites, including the author of Deuteronomy, would forget; as the Deuteronomist goes on to recount a story of genocide and the same imperial, brutal practices toward the Canaanites as had been experienced by the Israelites in Egypt. Yet, in spite of the never-ending allure that systems of dominations can provide, neither the Israelites nor the Deuteronomist could forget the prophetic power of the vision by which Moses guided the people. In **1 Thessalonians 2:1–8**, Paul rejects imperial, hierarchical authority, which he says he could claim if he were inclined. Instead, Paul's gospel model is a gentle authority, like that of a mother nursing a child. **Matthew 22:34–46** reflects the tension, conflict, and contradiction between an imperial theology of hierarchy and the realm of God. The Good News theology proclaimed by Jesus centred in love of God and love of neighbour.

### **Call to worship**

We are people on a journey – a journey of faith and hope in God's love. **Come, let us continue on this journey, keeping our sights on the promises of God's grace.**

The invitation has been sent to each of us – no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey – we are all invited to join in following. **We are invited to follow the Christ wherever we are led; to follow into service, into contemplation, into worship, and into communion with God, God's people, and God's created world. Come, let us journey on.**

Come, people of God, let us recognize ourselves as one family of God, as we journey together toward peace and justice.

**God unites us as one people, and journeys with us all the way. Let us worship.**

### **Opening prayer**

We have visions, Great Creator. We hold images and dreams in our spirits that we long to see manifest, but for now, sustain us for the journey. Be known to us as we worship, and help us to cast our visions into the realm of possibility. Be known to us and guide us ever closer to the fulfillment of all healing and wholeness in this world. Be known to us, and help us to see that every step is balm itself – every effort is part of your glory – every intention to love and share compassion is your

realm on Earth embodied. Be known to us as we worship, and help us to see what is true now, as well as to hold the vision for what is possible in your grace. Amen.

**Sentence:** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

### **Prayer of the Day:**

God of love, your Son teaches us the heart of the law. Open our minds, souls and hearts to discern what you ask of us. Empower us to love you with our whole being, to love our neighbour as ourselves and thus fulfil your law. 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** Deut 34:1-12, 1 Thess 2:1-8 Matt 22:34-46

**Hymns:** HTC 9 The God of Abraham praise vs 1,4, 6. HTC 536 Your hand O God has guided vs 1,2,5. HTC 360 Father hear the prayer we offer, HTC 231 Come down, O love divine

### **Notices:**

**Tuesday 27th Oct: 11am GGICN, 3pm Oasis after school group at GI 4pm Health & Wellness Group at Holy Cross**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct: 9.30am Home communions 1pm Eucharist @ Holy Cross,**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct: Fruit & Vege. Green Island 10.30-11.30am and St Kilda 4-5.30pm,**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. All Saints – please add names of those you wish to be remembered to the list at the back of the church.**