

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator– Michael Godfrey, Diana Abercrombie, the Diocesan office staff and Diocesan Council.

For those whose anniversaries fall at this time. Give thanks for the life of Joan Graham, Peter Dunn and Graham Leather, and pray for their families.

Those who are sick: Agnes, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gerald, Graham, Helen, Jan Y, Jean V, Jesse Bessant, Jim L, Keith M, Les, Lysiane, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Pat G, Peggy, Philip, Ross, Sarah, Sharron M, Stephen, Stewart, Susie, Tim, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire & Sue 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

Starts 30 Jan. 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

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Southern Coastal Deanery

3rd February, 2019

4th Sunday of the Epiphany

God's word has the power to create, curtail, refine, shape, challenge, build, and plant. The power of God's word has been described over and over in scripture, yet we can forget to leverage its strength in our efforts to transform our lives and our communities. As we read this week's scripture readings, let us consider the ways that God's word could create, refine, strengthen, and replant our lives in a way that enlivens the Spirit, pleases God, and makes the reign of God more visible for all who seek hope in a hurting world.

Focus scripture: Luke 4:21–30 This week's gospel continues directly from the one read last week and reveals the power of God's word to convict God's people. The passage is framed by verses 22 and 28 where we hear a reversal in how the community perceives and receives Jesus. Verse 22 tells that "All spoke well of [Jesus] and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." By verse 28, those listening to Jesus speak in the synagogue were filled with rage.

What is the message that Jesus offers that leads to such a pivot in public opinion? Jesus announces that the help and healing he has offered to others will not necessarily be provided to everyone.

He communicates this indirectly. The fact that it was outsiders with whom Jesus initially worked maddened the crowd – they felt robbed and betrayed. Their furore increased when Jesus cited the works of their own prophets Elijah and Elisha who brought healing to Gentiles when many Israelites were suffering. The ethics of Jesus' time required a person to take care of family first, then their hometown, and, only then, to care for foreigners. Jesus offers the prophetic word that God's power to help and heal extends to the most vulnerable in a community. Some might have been thinking that if Jesus is going to help and heal it should be the people in his own hometown. The people had expectations, and Jesus did not meet them. Despite the anger of the people of Nazareth, Jesus is not intimidated. Nor does Jesus soften his message. It must have been tempting to want to appease the crowd by telling them what they wanted to hear, but Jesus does not waver; he

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

merely passed through the midst of them and went on his way. Luke 4:21–30 tells us that God’s word has the power to help, heal, confront expectations, and change relationships. It reminds us that not all God’s words are words of comfort. The word of God has the power to create and shape, but also the power to disrupt, curtail, pluck up, and destroy. Jeremiah 1:4–10 serves as Jeremiah’s call narrative. Jeremiah’s call to ministry comes with the assurance that God will be with him and will give him the words.

It takes multiple visions to see life’s paths, to understand its wisdom and to recognize our own calls. Paul maintains in 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 that the ways of love, faith, and hope are interwoven and serve as signs for followers of the Christ.

Theme: Power of the Word.

The practice of compassion

Directions

1. Trace your hand on a piece of paper with crayon, pen, or pencil.
2. On each finger, write the name of a gift that God has given you.
3. In the middle of your handprint, list one or two issues in the world where there is brokenness and hurting – places or people or issues that need the hand of God to bring healing.
4. Look at your hand. How might God be using your gifts to be God’s hand in that situation? Spend some time in conversation with each other about what you might do, individually and/or as a church do to bring healing.

Sentence of the day: Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. *1 Corinthians 13:14*

Collect of the day: God, infinite in purpose; faithful watchers in the temple welcomed Christ to the Father’s house; glimpsed the glory and the pain to come: give us the faith to wait and watch for you; give us the perception, to recognise you; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

Notices

Monday 4th Feb; St Mary’s Fellowship are visiting the Chinese Gardens at 2pm. Admission is \$6.50 per head for Seniors or \$9.50 non Seniors. Carpool from St Anne’s at 1.30pm Looking forward to meeting up again. All Welcome.

Wednesday 6th Feb; Waitangi Day – there is no midweek service today.

Sunday 10th Feb. No services in the Deanery we are joining the Centennial Celebrations at the Cathedral. 10am Eucharist followed by light refreshments. The Bishop of Edinburgh is the guest preacher.

Tuesday 12th Feb; Oasis begins for 2019 at 3pm at St Mark’s. **ALLM** meeting at St Mary’s at 7.30pm

Wednesday 13th Feb; 1pm Eucharist at Holy Cross, 2pm Eucharist @ Thornbury House

Thursday 14th Feb; AAW meets at Eleanor & Jim Leckie’s home 4 Wilson Ave at 2pm. This is the annual Bring & Buy for Overseas and Outreach fundraising. All welcome. 7.15pm EfM at St Marks

Saturday 23rd Feb: Layministers Training Day, 10am-4pm at St John’s, Roslyn. If you wish to attend please complete a registration form, all are welcome.

Friday 1st March; World Day of Prayer Services.

Saturday 2nd March; Quiet Day at Brighton in preparation for Lent 10-4pm

AAW 50th ANNIVERSARY IN NZ. DINNER
5:30pm for a 6pm start @ St John's Roslyn.
Speaker Gary Griffith-Smith. Cost \$25. See AAW 50th Dinner

10am, St Peters Caversham, 'The Advent of Ritualism in the Diocese of Dunedin' Lecture by Father Hugh Bowron St Peter's Caversham. Followed at 11.30 am by Solemn Sung Requiem Eucharist Recalling Bishop Nevill