

Please pray for

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator– Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff and Council. Pray for the Special Synod to consider the Selwyn College consultation report as together we seek God's direction for the future of the college. Pray for Bp Steve as he has knee replacement surgery. For those whose anniversaries fall at this time. Pray for Fr Deacon Christian as he prepares for his ordination on the 15th March.

Those who are sick: Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Graham, Jan HV, Jan Y, Jean V, Jim L, Keith M, Les & Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Pam B, Pat G, Pauline, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Stephen, Stewart, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire Christie.

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays) no services in January

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

Mornington 9.30a.m.

St Kilda 11a.m. (morning tea from 10.15am)

Midweek service

Wednesday at Holy Cross @ 1pm

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

Administrator: Phone 488-0020 email to janclark8260@gmail.com

Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

Southern Coastal Deanery

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

15 March, 2020.

3rd Sunday of Lent

The Well of Living Water

This week, we overhear a series of conversations and receive helpful advice about conversations that change hearts and minds. The Israelites are thirsty in the desert; Jesus is thirsty at the well. Thirst is universal. The theme of thirst threads through this week's readings and inspires unlikely conversations between the generations of God's people.

Exodus 17:1–7 "The people quarrelled with Moses" which, we discover, is the same as quarrelling with God. This may sound as though Moses equates himself with God. Moses was chosen to lead God's people, but we know he does not compare himself to God. Moses was a reluctant leader. He had quarrelled with God about the call on his life and the mission God had given him. Moses learnt early that God calls and leads but God doesn't ignore our complaints and arguments.

In Romans 5:1–11 Paul describes what it means to be justified by faith: we are restored to a right relationship with God through Christ, and this brings peace. Even our suffering can teach endurance, build characters, and lead to hope. Christ's death and, even more, Christ's life will lead us to life with God.

John 4:5-42 the story of the woman at the well is an example of the kind of conversation with God that causes us to experience love. The woman had many reasons to avoid Jesus and Jesus was under cultural expectation to ignore her as well. Nevertheless, Jesus initiates a conversation by asking her to meet his need for water. They speak openly about her life and, at the end of the story, "many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony... they asked him to stay with them..." The woman moves from avoidant to engaged because a stranger invited her to reflect on her life. Sometimes, we tell this story as though Jesus is harsh and judgmental when he tells her about her life. Perhaps he used a gracious tone. The

woman experiences Jesus' way of telling her story as a miracle. Jesus may have been asking her to look beyond the men in her life and the choices she has made that brought her to this point. He doesn't pass judgment; he simply asks her to consider the true source of life and love. The disciples then enter the conversation, urging Jesus to eat. Jesus, however, is more concerned with doing the will of God. Jesus expands on the food theme by pointing out the harvest of spiritually hungry and thirsty people around them. There was no need to wait between sowing and reaping – the harvest was already waiting. The Samaritan woman had already started "harvesting."
Engaging strangers in conversation teaches us how to engage the stranger parts of God's love for us. If we can invite each other into the conversation, surely, we can speak with the lover of our souls. Whom do you speak to when you are thirsty?

Prayer and reflection ideas for Lent

Each week during Lent, **read Matthew 4:1–11** – the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Spend some time reflecting and writing in your journal about the temptations you face in your own life. Each week choose something to fast from (challenge yourself and choose something you think you can't live without). When you feel tempted, return to your journal – reflect on the struggles you're having and remember your dependency on God during this time.

Create a "Photo-a-Day Prayer Journal" this Lent. Each day, snap a photo with your smartphone or tablet of something for which you are praying – it could be a photo of the headlines from the day's paper, someone you're with, or even a photo of photos of family and friends. Look through your photos throughout Lent to remind you of those things you want to lift up in prayer.

Dedicate 30 minutes each week — **to group or family time for personal reflection.** Gather as a family (or group) for this time but allow individuals to find their own comfortable space for reflection. To focus your reflection time, you might pick a word or phrase like "sacrifice" or "walking in the light" or use the focus scripture for the week (or a verse or two from it). Play quiet instrumental music or even light a few candles as you begin your reflection time. When the time has ended, come back together and ask for a volunteer to pray to close your time together.

A very warm welcome to Matthew and Joseph, as your family bring you for baptism today.

Call to worship

Let us sing to God, who knows the depths of the sea!

May the Spirit pour God's love into our hearts!

Let us sing to God, who fills the clouds with rain!

May the Spirit pour God's love into our hearts!

Let us sing to God, who brings forth water in the desert!

May the Spirit pour God's love into our hearts!

Let us sing to God, who separated the sea and the land!

May the Spirit pour God's love into our hearts!

Opening prayer

God, we know that you are with us in our sufferings. We thank you for the gifts of endurance and character. Remind us also of your gift of hope. Be with us as we remember your gift of reconciliation, and help us to be reconciled with one another in your love. Amen.

Collect: Fountain of life, we your desert wanderers come to you thirsty and parched. Become in us a spring of eternal life, bubbling and brimming over, to eternal life. With the Father and the Son, you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings: Exod 17:1-7 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Hymns: HTC 231 Come down, O love divine, NJ 19 Celebrate each generation HTC 417 Take our bread, HTC 583 Praise the Lord, you heavens adore him.

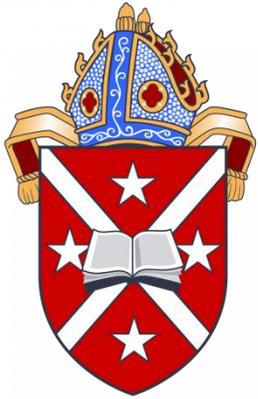
Notices:

Tuesday 17th March: 3pm Oasis @ GI, 4pm Health & Wellness @ Holy Cross

Wednesday 18th March: 10.30am Home Communion, **1pm** Eucharist @ Holy Cross,

Thursday 19th March: Fruit & Vege Distribution 10.30-11.30am @ St Mark's, 4pm-5.30pm at Holy Cross,

Deanery AGM will be held on Sunday 29th March. Following a 10.30am combined service at St. Mary's, Mornington. Reports for the AGM need to be emailed to Jan Clark by the 12th March.



Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The Diocesan Office has sent out today by email and also hard copy **Coronavirus Update: Communion and Pastoral Best Practice** with regard to the new corona virus Covid-19 and the infection risk associated with it, and I would be very grateful if you could all read it.

As we share communion I have noticed in the Diocese there is a widespread custom to intinct the wafer rather than to drink from the common cup. I have been told that this custom may have been adopted by many in the belief that it reduces the risk of sharing infection. I think the medical and microbiological evidence is against this view, and in fact there is more chance of gaining and sharing infections by holding and then dipping a wafer in the cup. And I would be keen for you to make this known to those

in your churches, parishes or ministry units, and to discourage the practice. You can do this during the service and in any pew sheets or church bulletins, as well as reference other best practice information we are sharing with you.

Please, when you are celebrating Holy Communion, can you be aware of the advice offered, and ask all communicants to refrain from intinction. For those who are not able to share a common cup they may feel that acknowledging – holding or touching – the proffered chalice may be comforting. The Church continues to teach that receiving communion in one kind – bread or wine - is sufficient.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With my love and prayers

+Steven