

ST JOHN'S BANNOCKBURN have organised a '7 Day Exclusive Bannockburn to Lake Eyre Bus Tour – they still have some space on the bus if anyone is interested in going on this tour – for further information, please contact Liz Bufton on 0427 524865 or staughtonvale@bigpond.com (please see details in coffee area).

G-RAP (FORMERLY GASON) – a committee chaired by Archdeacon, Neil Hicks – evolved in November 2015 to assist refugees and asylum seekers. The main focus is to provide material aid by way of a monthly distribution. Venue: St Andrew's Anglican Church, Corio, between 9.00am and 10.30am on the first Saturday of each month. They particularly need a representative from each parish, someone with whom the committee can communicate about G-Rap matters.- for further details, please see flyer in coffee area.

COMING EVENTS

REMINDER - CHRIST CHURCH SOCIAL CLUB

[formerly Saturday Club]

Next Saturday, 5th March at 7.30pm in the School Room
Welcome to Refugees from North Geelong Secondary College.

They have stories to tell and show us about their lives – the three students speaking are from Burma, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – Everyone welcome!
There will be a special supper!

UPDATE - WINTER WOOLIES & OTHER WONDERS MARKET

Saturday, 28th May

If you have items to offer, please check with:
Gai or Ruth – Craft; Sue – Cakes; Jan – Food;
Barbara – Preserves; Syama or Laurie - Plants

Urgent items needed are:

1. Small glass jars for jam & preserves - Barbara 5221 4680; and
2. Pots required for planting up cuttings – preferably 125mm – cleaned would help, but not essential - Laurie 0421 011 279

The major raffle prize is a Quilt generously donated by Anne Howarth.

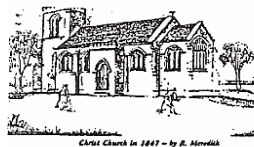
New feature – pruning demonstrations!

If you have ideas please let us know.

Many jobs on offer as time gets closer!

Contact: Ruth – 0425 785 694

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand.



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

28th February 2016 Liturgical Colour: Purple

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am (Sung); 5.15pm

Sentence

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,' says the Lord.

Prayer of the Day *

*O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs
from the Rock, our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen*



* You are invited to join in this Prayer immediately before today's readings

Service Setting: Christ Church Service

Hymns: 9.30am: 154; 223; 538; 112 5.15pm: 154; 112

Gospel Acclamation:



O God you are my God, and earnest-ly I will seek you.

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The Vicar Writes



Today we hear of Jesus lamenting over Jerusalem for her unwillingness to receive the prophets. The Lord cries how often could I have gathered your children as a mother hen gathers her brood. Jesus is speaking as the Christ, the Lord of the prophets; the inner-guide who inspires and leads all who turn sincerely to God for help. Jesus declares that the people of Jerusalem will not see him until they learn to say blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Herein the Lord reveals a great secret, one that gives great hope.

No matter how much one has strayed from grace, the Lord will again offer His inner guidance to one who wants it. Once a person calls upon the Lord with sincerity, the Lord responds from within. He also responds through people, through signs, through events, through Scripture and by leading us to His Word spoken through the mouths of great saints, past and present. Our job is to be open to God's guidance enough that we also may not be blind and deaf to those who come in the name of the Lord, whoever they may be.

Isaiah writes hear that your soul may live and I will make an everlasting covenant with you. Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near, the Lord will abundantly pardon. The best way to praise the Lord is to seek Him. God is very mysterious and the limitless nature of the Lord is also beyond ordinary human reasoning. That is why the Lord says your ways are not my ways and your thoughts are not my thoughts. The important thing to remember is that when we turn our hearts to the Lord and seek Him in all things the Lord begins to reveal Himself to us. Then it is no longer our thoughts probing in the dark for God's revelation but God's own thoughts that He is personally putting into our hearts and minds. God is inconceivable but God is conceivable to God. Therefore the seeking soul receives wisdom from God to increasingly understand the mysteries of the Lord. In other words, God reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit (God's own Self).

I have heard people say that God is not understandable but that is only true of mortals. God understands Himself very well and when God reveals Himself to an individual then that person awakens their inner soul qualities that are perfectly attuned to God's wisdom and a part of God's very being. Then understanding flows like a blissful stream into the heart of the Lord's servant. The revelations from the Lord never stop as long as one continues to seek the Lord and this process continues for eternity. That is why, for the seeking soul God is ever fresh, ever-new endless joy.

God led the children of Israel and later the early Christians. God has led people of every culture at every time in ways we could scarcely imagine. God offers the same leadership and guidance to us now. Its up to us to be ready to receive it.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

Reminder - Breakfast in the School Room between the 8.00am & 9.30am services is on today, Sunday, 28th February – Juice, cereal, toast & spreads, tea & coffee – all welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and stability in the world; those affected by the cyclone in Fiji.

THE CHURCH: Province of the Anglican Church of Congo; Diocese of Grafton; Anglican Early Childhood Services; Parish of St George, Queenscliff and St James, Point Lonsdale; St David's Doncaster East (Patronal Festival); Holy Trinity, Lara (Confirmation); St David's Moorabbin (Confirmation).

THE COMMUNITY: Mutual care, support and understanding; the contribution of each person to our community life.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: The recently departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Bruce Scott; Thelma Evans).

The Week Ahead

Monday, 29 th	2.00pm	Home Lenten Group
Tuesday, 1 st March	8.30am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	11.00am	Holy Eucharist at Brentwood
	1.30pm & 3.30m	Bible Explorers in the School Room
Wednesday, 2 nd	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 3 rd	11.00am	Lenten Group in the Church
	8.00pm	Home Lenten Group
	8.00am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
Friday, 4 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Home Lenten Group
Saturday, 5 th	7.30pm	Christ Church Social Club

NEXT SUNDAY: 6TH MARCH -FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT/MOTHERING SUNDAY*

*** Offers of Simnel Cake for next Sunday would be appreciated**

Readings: Joshua 5:2-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:11-32

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on **Friday, 4th March at 11.00am** at Wesley Uniting Church, Geelong. The theme is: *'Jesus said to them "Receive children. Receive me"'* Guest Speaker is Mrs Julie Whelan, a teacher from Clonard College who has recently been to Cuba. Everyone is welcome – a light lunch will be held after the service (for further information please ring 5248 4417 or 5221 7978)

CHURCH OF CHRIST presents *'Noah's Ark'* **next Sunday, 6th March at 5.00pm**. Speaker: Rod Marsh (Creation Ministries) – for further details please see flyer!

THE GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY presents composer, Elena Kats-Chernin and pianist, Tamara-Anna Cislowska on **Friday, 11th March at 6 7.30pm**, McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College (please see flyer in coffee area for further details).

UPDATE - ST MARY'S BASILICA presents *Bach's Mass in B Minor*. Performed by the Australian Chamber Choir at St Paul's, Latrobe Terrace (Director – Douglas Lawrence) with an orchestra of period instruments at **8.00pm on Wednesday, 16th March**. Tickets \$35/\$30 at the door or online at www.trybooking.com/JOXX (Please contact Jeanette at St Mary's on 5223 3554 – see flyer in coffee area)
