



**REMINDER - FUND RAISING -  
'FLORAL FANTASY TEA DANCE'**

*(Sponsored by Community Tango in Geelong)*  
Next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August from 2.30pm  
\$20 per person or \$18 concession  
Sign-up sheet on the crossing table; phone  
Pam Jarvis on 0417 531619; or speak to Jan or Ruth  
**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!!!**

**CHRIST CHURCH SOCIAL CLUB**

*'Show & Tell'*

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the School Room  
Share your memories and lives through talk,  
photos, memorabilia, etc.  
All welcome!! Supper provided

**FILM NIGHT - 'BROOKLYN'**

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September in St Mary's Theatrette  
An Irish immigrant in Brooklyn in the 1950's  
starring Saoirse Ronan  
Cost: \$15 (includes supper)  
Time: 7.15pm for 7.30pm start!

*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](http://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.*

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

21<sup>st</sup> August 2016

Liturgical Colour: Green

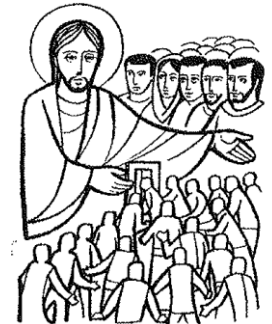
Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am (Sung) & 5.15pm

Sentence

You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust from my youth.  
Upon you have I leaned since my birth.

Prayer of the Day \*

O God, the Judge of all,  
through the saving blood of your Son  
you have brought us to the heavenly Jerusalem  
and given us a kingdom which cannot be shaken:  
fill us with reverence and awe in your presence,  
that in thanksgiving we and all your Church  
may offer you acceptable worship;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives to intercede for us,  
now and for ever. Amen



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

Service Setting: Christ Church Service

Hymns: 9.30am: 446; 207; 474; 665

5.15pm: 207; 446

Psalm Response:



God is my rock and my strong-hold.

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## The Vicar Writes



Jesus was preaching on the Sabbath and he was aware of the strict rules that were observed by Hebrews on the Sabbath. Jesus was not against observing the Sabbath for he accepted what the Hebrews did as an offering to God, but there are higher priorities in devotional service that may go beyond the way we have chosen to express our devotion. Compassion for others is more important than observing rules given by a prophet to help conform people to God (i.e. the Sabbath observance given by Moses). Therefore Jesus didn't hesitate to heal the women who had been bent over for 18 years, despite knowing that the act of mercy would draw criticism from people who blindly followed the rules without understanding their purpose.

The nature of the healing is interesting. The woman was bent over and unable to straighten, she had a spirit of infirmity the text reads. Jesus could see the spiritual malaise behind the physical illness, the negative self-image that kept the woman stooped. Jesus describes her as a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had kept bound. Satan means illusion or the darkness of ignorance that keeps us bound to a limited view of God, ourself and the relationship with God that is our divine inheritance. If we knew the glory of the soul and the infinite glory of the Supreme Soul, if we lived in the ecstatic love of God, no darkness could ever enter us.

The compassion of Jesus was not only to heal the body but to heal the soul, and not only the souls who received Christ's healing mercy but all souls who even hear such wonderful tales. The vision of Jesus penetrates deep into the heart of everyone and he acts from within and without to bring soul" into an awareness of the glory of God and the eternal beauty of all life and existence.

We have all been stooped over in our self-absorption to the degree that we have missed the infinite existence we could have in God. Christ calls to us through these divine actions to emerge from our darkness into his wondrous light. Surrender to love he demands, give up the petty weakness of heart that makes us slaves of smallness, fear and prejudice. Jesus reminds his critic that the woman he healed on the Sabbath is a child of Abraham, a child of God. The woman was under the spell of illusion thinking herself to be lowly, unworthy, unclean but Jesus implored her "no" you are a child of the infinite and as important as anyone. Love God who loves you, don't offend the image of God within you by thinking yourself inferior, causing you to stoop in unhappy depression.

The words of Jesus were meant for the liberation of that woman from all misery and to bring her and us into the light of infinite, eternal wisdom and love. No longer should we identify with death and its limitations. Jesus calls us to celebrate life, embrace the freedom of service, and look to the eternal with adoration and confidence that the Lord's mercy is always for us. Jesus had no intention to eradicate the Hebrew law but he did want to point out what was really important in God's eyes. The dignity of every individual and the Supremacy of divine love over any minor rule is only meant to help us come into the unlimited light of divine love.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

**BREAKFAST** in the School Room between the 8.00am & 9.30am services is on today, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Cereal, toast, tea or coffee – all welcome!!



**REMINDER – MEGA PLANT SALE continues today!**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**THE WORLD:** Peace and harmony among all nations of the world.

**THE CHURCH:** Anglican Church of South America; The Anglican Church of Australia; Children's & Families' Ministry; Parish of Oakleigh: Holy Trinity & Emmanuel; Christ Church South Yarra (commissioning of Brotherhood of St Laurence Chaplain; Parish of Mt Dandenong; St Mark's Camberwell; St John's Malvern (Tamil Christian Congregation Victoria special service w. Bishop Dhilo of Colombo; Bellarine Gateway Parish (Confirmation)..

**THE PARISH/COMMUNITY:** Hospital chaplains and volunteers in pastoral care, aged care facilities and palliative care and also our parish pastoral ministry teams

**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. We remember with thanks: St Bartholomew (Wednesday).

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	2.00pm	Book Group in School Room
	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
	7.30pm	Healing Service
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	9.00am	Working Bee
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am	'Footy Parking'

**NEXT SUNDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Readings: Jeremiah 2.4-13; Ps 81; Hebrews 13.1-8 & 15-16; Luke 14.1 & 7-14**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Christmas boxes are due to be delivered by the end of October. If you wish to take part in this appeal, please see Jan.

**REMINDER - 5C APPEAL:** At present the appeal stands at \$275, and the plan is to send it off to ABM at the end of this month - so if you have any 5c pieces lurking please bring them in and they will be included in this count. If you forget don't fret as they can then make the start for the next collection, as we are making two donations a year to ABM. Coins and notes of any denomination are also accepted gratefully. Thank you - the coin counting Elf!

**EMERGENCY CUPBOARD:** For the Sundays of August, we are asking parishioners to bring tins of creamed rice or packets or cups of 2 minute noodles for the cupboard. Some items are not available from the most recent supplier, and they are greatly appreciated. Please place them in the basket near the sides-persons' area.

**REMINDER - FOOTY PARKING:** The final AFL home match for the Cats is on **next Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August** – match begins at 1.45pm so parking will be available for the two hours beforehand. As a couple of our regulars will be away on holidays for this day, any assistance would be appreciated. Let's finish the AFL home and away season on a good note! ... and GO CATS!!



**ST MARY'S BASILICA** presents 'Bach in the Castle of Heaven' (Australian Chamber Choir) **next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm** (see flyer in coffee area).