

The Anglican Church of Australia  
The Diocese of Wangaratta

**19th February 2017**  
**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**Hymns: 132, 657, 607, 433**



*Introit Hymn*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*



Lead me in the path of your commandments, for therein is my delight.

Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to unjust gain.

Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities;

O give me life in your ways./R

**Lead me O Lord, in the path of your commandments.**

Confirm to your servant your promise, which stands for all who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, because your judgements are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments;

in your righteousness give me life./R

## SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 3.10-17**

[Christ is our foundation, and we all build our lives and community on that foundation so that we become together the temple of God's Spirit.]

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians*

Paul writes, 'By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved – even though only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives among you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

In those who obey the | word of Christ  
the love of God has reached per | fection.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 5.38-48**

[Jesus teaches his followers not to seek revenge or pay-back, but to treat those who oppress and harm them with grace and generosity, and to love even their enemies and persecutors.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke*

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

On the mountain Jesus continued to teach his disciples; 'You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you,

and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ‘You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus**

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## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

God of all holiness, open us to understand that when we reduce your warmth and welcome, your compassion and wholeness, to cold hard religion, your holiness is jeopardised; enable us to be people of true holiness; of compassion and loving obedience, of welcome, hospitality and healing.

God who makes all things holy: **hear our prayer.**

God of all holiness, hear our prayer for the peoples of the world and those tasked with governing; may we be those through whom the world becomes more friendly and flexible, more accepting and inviting, more caring and protective; and may your holiness flood all over the world.

God who makes all things holy: **hear our prayer.**

God of all holiness, we pray for your Church as it seeks to lead the people of God into new understandings of holiness; strengthen and uphold the clergy and people of this Diocese that all may reveal the power of holiness made known in your Spirit; we pray for John our Bishop; for Revd Maryann Leonard as she commences her ministry with the people of Cobram, and for our parish that our lives may reflect the wonder and beauty of holiness.

God who makes the ugly beautiful: **hear our prayer.**

God of all holiness, we pray for Australia, for those ravaged by fire and flood; for all those with insecure jobs and futures; for those who seek asylum and those held in detention on Nauru and Manas Island; for our government, police, military forces and prison officers; may we be true to the ideals of fairness, openness and generosity; for our neighbours and all those communities recovering from the aftermath of fire; strengthen and uphold them in their rebuilding of lives and property.

God who exposes and redeems the unlovely: **hear our prayer.**

God of all holiness, may we find ways to bring comfort to the distressed and those in need; for the lonely and those lacking caring relationships; for those suffering the travails of dysfunctional family life; for the despised and the marginalised and those for whom no one will cross the road; for the homeless and those living on the

streets; for those who are sick, in pain and those who care for them; for those on our hearts this day those who have requested prayer;

*Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

God who champions the cause of the outcast and despised: **hear our prayer.**

God of all holiness, we give thanks and pray for holy men and women who have died in your love who have left us a legacy of holiness; for the recently departed and those whose year's mind occurs at this time.

*19th Ivor Hitchman; 21st Beryl Brown; 23rd Win Derman, Fred Gimmade, Jean Rasmussen, Cynthia Sherwood, Bertram Congram; 24th Phyllis Downing, Florence Britton; 25th Robert Keath, Mabel Wittingslow, Raymond Boulton.*

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

God who welcomes all: **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, come dwell in us; make us temples of our God, that we too may be holy; take all our prayers and weave them into your own, so that you inform our every choice, every struggle; as we pray for ourselves, open us to your holy breath..... ; we offer our prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray; **Our Father ...[pg. 124]**

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### **Reflections on the Readings**

The idea of 'holiness' appears in all of this week's readings in different forms. In Leviticus the people are commanded to be holy as God is holy, and this holiness is revealed in their treatment of one another and their seeking for justice. The psalmist prays for a life that is directed by God's ways and God's commands, and for the strength to pursue this life faithfully. Paul challenges the church to be a holy temple for God's Spirit by building their lives and community on the foundation of Christ. And, in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus teaches what 'perfection' or holiness is to be like – compassionate and non-violent, refusing to retaliate when harmed, and seeking the best even for those who consider us to be their enemies. What is clear here is that holiness is not about us not doing things. It is about doing things that make a difference. It is not about avoiding so-called sinful behaviour, but it is rather all about doing justice, compassion, fairness, non-violence and generosity. It is about caring for those who are vulnerable and poor, and treating all people with the same respect and dignity. I'm not sure when holiness became synonymous with piety, but that does not seem to be what the Bible is trying to teach us about holiness. Both the Old Testament lesson and the Gospel point to the link between justice and holiness, and in a world where social justice can sometimes be labelled as unChristian, this is a message we need to hear. Jesus makes this action all-encompassing when he includes even enemies in those who deserve love and justice. What might our world look like if we worked harder at loving our enemies than we do at killing them? Throughout history Christians have warred against each other and still do. We may not always use physical weapons, but we certainly use the weapons of the media, of words and of rejection. We do this against people of

other religions as well, but as long as we do this, we fall short of God's holiness, and we inflict death on both our enemies and ourselves. It is when the offer of grace costs us the most that we are most reflecting the grace and character of Christ. When we refuse to hate or attack or reject even those who are the most threatening and unloving, we begin to embody the "perfection", the holiness which Christ teaches about. Holiness comes down to wholeness (integrity and authenticity), compassion and hospitality. These three characteristics are what God offers us, and what we are called, in this week's Gospel and Old Testament readings, to extend to others – even those we most want to reject or condemn.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2017) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

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## Notices

**TONIGHT 7.30pm The Chamber Philamonia of Cologne Concert St Matthews, Broadford** with wine and cheeses pre concert and supper after the concert. Supper tickets are \$10 for wine and cheeses; \$10 for supper or \$15 for both. Limited concert tickets available at the door.

**Next Saturday 11am 25th February Ordination service** for Paul Hobby, Kasey Holyman and Michelle Wood. Please contact Fr Kim or wardens today if you wish to car share to attend the service.

**Farewell Gift for Rev'd Maryann and John** - Contributions towards this gift are requested - please give your donation to one of the parish wardens or place it in the offertory plate in a marked envelope.

**Harvest Festival & Parish BBQ Sunday 12th March at Gavan Hall.** Meat provided please bring salads and sweets to share - please start to prepared items for the harvest in all centres.

**Lenten Study 2017 - Study will commence Friday 3rd March 7.30pm at 13 The Parade, Bradford.** Using familiar Lenten themes we will explore how Christian faith can be enriched by encounters with people of different religions. There are five sessions in the series - please let Fr Kim know if you wish to attend.

**Direct Debit /EFT Offerings** - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please change your bank details when making offerings.

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## Parish life this week

Tuesday 21st	1.30pm	St Matthew's Friendship Group	Gavan Hall
Wednesday 22nd	1.00pm	SPOT Meeting Wangaratta	
	5.00pm	Bishop in Council Wangaratta	
Thursday 23rd	10.00am	Eucharist St Matthews	
	10.00am	Eucharist Willowmeade	
	4.00pm	Eucharist Dianella	
Friday 24th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House		
Saturday 25th	11.00am Ordination Holy Trinity Wangaratta		
	10.00am-12.00pm Op Shop Church House		

<p><b>Next Sunday: 26th February 2017</b>  <b>Last Sunday after Epiphany - Transfiguration</b></p>
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Exodus 24.12-18; Ps 2; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

### Parish Clergy:

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155  
 m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

**Priest (PTO)** Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764 [www.anglicankilmore.org.au](http://www.anglicankilmore.org.au)



Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning

# Turn the Other Cheek

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV)

**LOVE**  
**YOUR ENEMIES**  
**AND PRAY**  
FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU.  
**MATTHEW 5:44**

Search the puzzle to find the hidden words.

U D G O E W L W X S Q R K K M  
E O C O E U K F H T A P R A Y  
G E D B B E C N O A O N P G L  
J L O V E F E V I L T E U C R  
D A Q H J K L C W U U I X O W  
N O C Y R I U V Q D D G F J V  
X S L A P E N E M Y X H R C S  
J K A D P P Z Q U H S B I Q Z  
F S U D Z S R T W A L O E N L  
A G B A X G E O N T N R N Z E  
K J X L H X W P H E O E D W P  
D V K L I G A W E E Y O S F G  
W Y Z W N P R B J E G F T C A  
B H K F O L D V H E Q W W H K  
R O P A R J J T X O K X O T I

CHEEK

NEIGHBOR

LOVE

TOOTH

ENEMY

SLAP

REWARD

FRIENDS

EVIL

EYE

PRAY

HATE