

The Diocese of Wangaratta  
**The Anglican Parish of Kilmore**  
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook  
16th March 2014  
Second Sunday of Lent

Hymns: 116, 144, 341, 583



# BORN OF THE SPIRIT

*Introit Hymn*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

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*

## SENTENCE

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3.16.*

## THE COLLECT

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 12.1-4a**

*A reading from the book of Genesis*

The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ‘I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

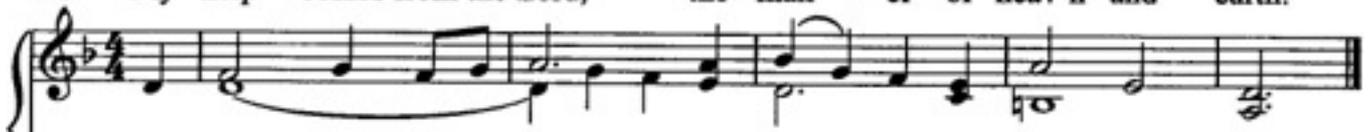
**Psalm 121**

**Response: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

**Response**

**Andrew Moore**

v. 2 My help comes from the Lord, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.



I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth./R

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep./R

The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
neither the moon by night./R

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.  
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out  
and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore./R

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans*

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

**Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Son of Man must be | lifted up,  
that whoever believes in him may have e- | ternal life.

**Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

## GOSPEL

**John 3. 1-17**

*A reading from the holy gospel according to John*

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can

enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

God of Abram and Nicodemus, God of all of us who often think we are too old or too poor, too small or too weak, too tired or too busy to reach for the heavens, or became daunted by the sheer wonder of the possibilities that you offer us: yet as we come to you now, aware of all you have done for us, and yet still struggling with our doubts make your presence known in our prayer.

Birth us all anew, O God; **hear us and help us on our journey.**

God of Abram and Nicodemus, we pray for your holy Church, for all faith bearers and encouragers; for our Bishop John and our parish; give us the courage to leave everything behind, take up our cross and follow you. Give us a faith in loving to act on what we do not understand, and in so doing be a blessing to everyone in your name.

Birth us all anew, O God; **hear us and help us on our journey.**

God of Abram and Nicodemus, we pray for this world, where so many wander homeless not by choice, but out of necessity, where so many are looking for milk and honey or a great Name to rescue them. We pray for all the people in this world, for the peoples of Syria, and the Ukraine, and for all refugees and seekers of safety. We pray for those who lead the nations of the world; for our government, prime minister and all tasked with leadership; for those mourning the loss of loved ones on Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370. in pro



## Reflections on the Readings

The clear focus of this week's readings is the idea of faith or believing. Abram, believing God's promise, sets out from his home to a new land. The Psalm expresses deep faith in the God who protects and cares for God's people. Paul emphasises Abraham's faith as the doorway into relationship with God, and invites believers to embrace a similar faith in Christ. And Nicodemus, coming to Jesus in the night, is invited to be born again, born from above, in order to see God's reign, and to recognise that Jesus is the one who came to bring life to those who embrace him. The call to faith is unavoidable here, but, of course, the question it raises is this: what is faith? Is it simply an intellectual agreement with certain propositions? Or is it something deeper? The key lies in the conversation with Nicodemus, where faith and the new birth are brought together by Jesus. This faith is not just accepting ideas in the mind. Rather it is an experience of new birth. It is a completely new way of being that enables us to 'see', to 'know' in our innermost selves God's reign and then to live out of this new birth as leaves driven by the wind. Marcus Borg calls faith a journey into a process of discovering the reality of God in our lives and thus being transformed by it. It is so much more than intellectual assent to a set of propositions about God and Christ. This faith is so much more than just signing a pledge card, or praying a specific prayer in order to be "saved". This believing is completely transforming, and must, therefore, like birth and the life which follows it, be a growing, developing experience that is embraced anew each day. A faith that is simply a set of ideas does not lead us to new birth. It does not change our very lives and give us a new way of seeing or a God's-reign way of being – which may be why Christians are so often accused of being hypocrites. The faith of Abraham that Paul calls us to experience, the faith that leads to new birth, which Jesus offered to Nicodemus, is a transforming encounter with a God who leads us into a whole new world – the world of God's reign, where children are the leaders, the meek inherit the earth, and the poor, the mourners and the peace makers are the first recipients of God's presence and grace. Once we have embraced this faith, we cannot help but begin to live this new life in such a way that it makes a difference in our families, our places of work and leisure, our communities and our Church. Once we have been born anew, we find ourselves recognising Christ in those we would normally shun, and we begin to care about issues that we would normally ignore. It is not our obedience that leads us to life – as Paul points out – but our faith. However, faith that does not change who we are and how we live, is not faith at all. Ultimately believing does not happen in our heads alone, but in our whole being, and in lives that, in small but significant ways, touch the least with grace and compassion, and seek to make the world a more hopeful, celebratory and gracious place.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2014) <http://sacredise.com>*

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# Notices

Thank you to all who came and together made the Parish Eucharist and Harvest Festival, the AGM and lovely lunch such a memorable occasion.

**Lenten Study - Session Two** - two opportunities to participate - MONDAY 16th March 2pm at Gavan Hall and on 7.30pm at Caroline Burge 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore.

**March Parish Council Meeting** - Due to the Parish involvement in the 'Boat Walk' to Canberra on March 19th (see separate notice), the March Parish Council Meeting is postponed to next Wednesday March 26th.

## **Gift of Refuge Walk**

This Wednesday we are welcoming Tri Ngyun to our parish as he walks from Brunswick to Canberra. If you are able bodied and wish to walk with Tri as he walks through Kilmore, be at Kilmore Police Station 4.00pm on Wednesday. Route will take us down the main road to Union Street and up to Christ Church by 4.30pm. At 6.00pm we will welcome Tri and his support team back at Christ Church for Evening Prayer followed by a bring and share dinner. Food will be needed and if you are able to help with the catering please contact Robyn Whitehouse (5781 1185). If you are unable to come or help with the catering, monetary donations will be gratefully received to go towards the food. For more information about how the parish is supporting Tri on his Pilgrimage to Canberra, please read the enclosed flyer or contact Caroline Burge.

**Stamps for Mission** - Incredible it may seem your postage stamps still have value and the Diocese has a collection point for stamps. Boxes are now at the back of the church which will be regularly emptied and forwarded on.

## **Casseroles for the BlazeAid Team**

Helen Begley is coordinating cooking of casseroles every second Tuesday (starting March 4th) for the BlazeAid Team. Meals required at the Wandong Community Centre at 6.00pm. Helen can arrange delivery if required. Helpers and their families welcome to eat with the volunteers. Please ring Helen 5782 1625 on Monday 3rd March if you can help.

**Email Addresses** - we would like to utilise email to facilitate communications in addition to the website and facebook. If you have an email address and will to let us have it please send an email to [publicity@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:publicity@anglicankilmore.org.au) or [rector@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:rector@anglicankilmore.org.au). This won't be for official publication in the Parish Directory (unless you want it to), but will be used by Fr Kim, the Parish Secretary and the Parish Publicity Officer.

**Direct Debit Offerings** - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

# Parish life this week

Third week of March

Monday 17th 2.00pm Lenten Study II - Gavan Hall  
Tuesday 18th 1.30pm St Matthew's Friendship Group-Pancake Day - Gavan Hall  
Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Lenten Study II - 20 Chrystobel Way Kilmore  
Wednesday 19th 6.00pm Evening Prayer - Tri Nguyen welcome - Christ Church  
Thursday 20th 7.30am Tri Nguyen sets out for Broadford  
10.00am Eucharist St Matthews  
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade  
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella  
7.00pm Tri Nguyen Dinner & Presentation - Gavan Hall  
Friday 7th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House  
Saturday 8th 10.00am - 12.30pm Op Shop Church House

## Next Sunday: 23rd March 2014 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17. 1-7; Ps 95; Romans 5. 1-11; John 4.5-43

Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	10am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day
Christ Church	5pm	Church4Kids

## Parish Diary

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the month:** Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm Venue TBA  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month:** Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month:** St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm  
fellowship & afternoon tea; contact Edie Simpson ph. 5784 1246  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month:** Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of month:** Christ Church Friendship Group 7.30pm contact Beris Hannam  
ph. 5723 9737 for program details  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month:** Church 4 Kids 5-6.30pm @ Christ Church

## Parish Clergy:

**Rector** Fr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
m 0407569343; kim@revkim.org

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

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