



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta

The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

26th April 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

HYMNS: 444 [Tune 56], 10 [Tune 122], 657, 699, 456

A warm welcome to any visitors please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Introit Hymn from the red Hymn Book

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

We are the body of the risen 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

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘I know my own and my own know me.’
John 10.14.

THE COLLECT

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 4.5-12

[Peter and the other disciples are put on trial by the religious leaders, who ask them by which name or power they have healed the lame man. Peter, in response, tells them that it is by the power of Jesus that the healing has happened. Though they rejected Jesus, he has become “the cornerstone” and is the name through which humanity is saved.]

A reading from the book of Acts

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest’s family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: ‘By what power or what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

[David celebrates God as his shepherd who provides for him, cares for him, protects him, and in whose house he will live forever.]

We sing the Psalm Hymn 10 [Tune 122]

SECOND READING

1 John 3.16-24

[As Jesus laid down his life for us we should lay down our lives for each other. We are called to follow God’s command to love one another – in action, not just in word.]

A reading from the first letter of John

John writes, ‘This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us

not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.

I know my own and my | own know me.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 10.11-18

[Jesus proclaims himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, and takes it up again.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Loving Shepherd of all, teach us to follow you; to be faithful to the calling you gave us to shepherd others in your name; to spread compassion, to speak for the voiceless, to defend the oppressed and abused, to work for justice for the exploited, to make peace for all who suffer violence, to take time to recognise our connectedness, and to love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we give thanks for the faithful witness of Egyptian Christian killed in Libya; for all church leaders, pastors, priests who shepherd their people in the faith; for John our Bishop; for our parish that we may be generous in our welcoming and hospitality to all who seek to find you.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all who serve the poor and the hungry; for all still grappling with the trauma of Ebola; for an end to violence in the Middle East; turn the hearts of those who sponsor terror as a means of religious expansionism; for all who risk their lives to seek refugee from oppression and those fleeing devastation; for those caring for the needs of asylum seekers in every place and we pray for those held in detention in our country.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for our country giving thanks for the rich blessings and freedoms we enjoy, and at this time of ANZAC commemoration we are mindful of those who died in wars and conflicts to protect those freedoms, lest we forget; we pray for military personnel currently serving overseas, for their families and loved ones; for all who provide medical care, social workers and pastoral care workers to veterans and returned servicemen and women.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all in need of your comfort and balm, for all who are lost, lonely or confused; for those who mourn lost loved ones; for the sick and those with mental illness, all who live with pain; for the dying and those who care for them.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all in need, those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

Requests for Prayer: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Joan Hiscock, Barbara Kaye, Matthew Parker, Darron & Silva, Sarah.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings where ever received.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, you laid down your life for your sheep; we give thanks for the courage and selflessness of all who have died that others may live; we pray for the recently departed, and for those whose years' mind occurs at this time;

Year's mind: *28th Jessie Payne, Leslie Cook, Margaret Caplehorn, John Callaghan, Kevin Sharp, Ray Sharp, Wally Bennett, Rex Young; May 1st Penelope Roberts, Frankie Walter, Ray Drummond.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Good Shepherd in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all; hear us as we pray for ourselves; lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, that guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and those we seek to serve.

Good Shepherd in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, lead us through the green pastures and deep valleys of life; be present to us in all our doings that we may glorify your name and be your resurrected people. Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus our Risen Lord, who taught us to pray; **Our Father in heaven [pg. 124]**

Reflection on the readings

If the Easter season is about anything, it's about restoration, life, and God's compassionate care for God's people. These are the themes that come through the readings for this week. In Acts the disciples, who are put on trial for healing the lame man outside of the Temple, proudly proclaim Jesus as the name by which the healing has happened, and by which humanity is to be saved. In David's famous 23rd Psalm "The Lord is my Shepherd", God's care as shepherd is celebrated, and in John's letter the love of God that is revealed in Christ's sacrifice is to be passed on through those who are Christ's disciples as they choose to love one another and be prepared to lay down their lives for one another. Finally, in the John Gospel Jesus proclaims himself as the Good Shepherd who cares for the sheep with commitment and courage, and who lays down his life for the sheep. But, in this loving sacrifice lies the hope of resurrection – Jesus confidently asserts that he will take up his life again. The message is an important one as we reflect on the resurrection over the next few weeks. Resurrection can easily be seen as an individual experience of life beyond the grave, but the Gospel reveals that it is so much more than that. As much as we can realise personal renewal through God activity in our lives, and the promise of eternity, resurrection also calls us to be life-carriers – shepherds who, like Jesus brings hope and new life to others at the risk of our own. It is the hope of resurrection that makes such sacrifice possible, and that gives us the strength and courage to risk loving and serving others even when it hurts. There are two obvious implications in today's themes. The first relates to the crucial issue of leadership. The realities of corruption, incivility, self-interest, and petty partisanship are present in pretty

much every government in the world. In the corporate sector, greed, quick-fixes, and profit-above-all-else easily taint leaders. Even in the sphere of the church, the temptation to seek fame, wealth, and influence too often takes precedence over compassionate and strong leadership. Like the people of Israel in Jesus' time, we long for Good Shepherds who lead with grace, compassion, wisdom, and justice. For those of us who exercise leadership in any capacity, the Easter vision calls us to use our influence to bring life to others, to serve others, and to work sacrificially for the good of our communities. It is such leadership that can make a positive difference to the great crises of our time at every level. The second implication of today's theme flows from this leadership challenge. It's the call to recognise that resurrection life is not just a gift for personal blessing, but is a powerful energy that is intended to flow between people, bringing life, wholeness, and justice wherever it flows. As such, the call to love one another sacrificially applies not just to those in leadership, but to every Christ-follower. The resurrection life we celebrate is meant to connect us with others and motivate us to seek their best, contributing in whatever way we can to a world of grace, peace, justice and love. As we seek to live Christ's resurrected life together, our care and compassion has the potential to address every crisis from poverty to climate change. All it takes is the vision and hope, the courage and commitment and the willingness to follow in faith the movement of God's Spirit and the life that God's Spirit brings.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2015) www.sacredise.com



NOTICES

Church 4 Kids 5pm this evening Christ Church - activities, songs, stories, games and food for children 4-14. Assistance with the program is requested.

Rector will be away Wednesday - Saturday, there will be no service at St Matthews, Broadford or Dianella on Thursday and the **Friday Faith Enhancement Group cancelled**.

Retiring Collection for ABM Vanuatu Emergency Fund

Strategic Planning Consultation - Over the next couple of weeks after the service Catherine Turnbull will be conducting a consultation with parishioners for the Strategic Plan. Please be available for a short time to provide your input.

From the Christ Church Wardens - Christ Church Toilet block

landscaping! A big thank you to David Sou and Fr Kim, plus their visitors over the last few weeks Hiran and Brian for all the work in landscaping the new toilet block area. Each week something new has been done, from weeding, blue stone laying, planting shrubs, spreading mulch etc. Well done for all the hard work. Only the 'gravel' to go. Any help would be gratefully received.

Confirmation 2015 - There will be a parish confirmation service in September anyone desiring to be confirmed please see Fr Kim.

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

Parish Diary			
1st Wed	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting	venue TBA
1st & 3rd Fri	7.00pm	Faith Enhancement Study	13 The Parade, Broadford
2nd Sun	12.30pm	Parish BBQ	See Notices for details
3rd Tues	1.30pm	St Matthew's Friendship Group	Gavan Hall Broadford
3rd Wed	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	venue TBA
4th Sun	5.00pm	Church 4 Kids	Christ Church

Parish life this week

Tuesday 29th [*Catherine of Siena, spiritual leader, (d.1380)*]

Wednesday - Saturday Rector away

Thursday 30th No service at St Matthews Broadford
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade

Friday May 1st [PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES & MARTYRS]
10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House

Saturday 2nd 10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 3rd May 2015 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8. 26-40; Psalm 22. 26-32; I John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4.00pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155
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