



**30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Hymns: 119 131 445 130**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38-39*)

**The Collect**

O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**First Reading**

*A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 29, beginning at verse 15.*

Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

*Hear the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 105*

**R: Lord, you remember your covenant forever.**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. **R...**

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth. **R...**

He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.' **R...**

## **Second Reading**

*A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, beginning at verse 26.*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Hear the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

The kingdom of Heaven is a pearl of great price; a merchant will seek high and low, and sell all he has to possess it.

**Alleluia!**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 13, beginning at the 44<sup>th</sup> verse.*

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

‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?’ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.’ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Prayers of the People

God, you seek us out and protect us like the merchant in pursuit of a pearl of great price; hear us when we bring our prayers before you.

We pray for the conservation and restoration of the natural world; for ecosystems that have been battered, bruised and burned by human avarice. We pray, too, for scientists and activists working to confront the issue of climate change. Teach us to be responsible with your creation, and where there is complacency, put your voice in us to call enemies of creation to account.

Jesus, treasure of our hearts,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for churches throughout the world; for communities where discipleship is rich, but funds are low; and communities that are rich in assets, but where the gospel is not brought to life. Be with all who minister in your name, help them to bring new people to faith, and move churches to share gifts and resources, rather than sit in despair and obscurity.

Jesus, treasure of our hearts,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who feel lost and meaningless; for those struggling with their faith, their work, their families or their finances. We pray that you would draw such vulnerable people away from the corrupting influences of vice, charlatans and the media; help us to seek out the lost, lonely and forgotten, and to give them the dignity you always intended for them.

Jesus, treasure of our hearts,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those burdened by ill health; for broken bodies, ailing minds and fearful spirits. For those facing addiction withdrawal, chronic pain, mental illness and terminal diagnoses; and those for whom the treatment rivals the agony of the condition. Be with them in their suffering, bringing healing and relief. We pray especially for those known to us: *Kathleen Taylor, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry Watts, Ray Daly, Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, Robert Whalley, Russel Taylor, David Valentine, Margaret Taylor, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Glenda McDonald, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Joan Grimwade, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* We pray also for the victims of the recent fire at Kingsgate Village.

Jesus, treasure of our hearts,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful departed, that you would welcome them in the eternal Kingdom. We pray for the repose of the soul of Brian Kenyon, and for Rebecca and all his family as they mourn his loss. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Linda Speers, Geoffrey Noonan, Win Hix, Eric Cowley, Roy Parker, Nadine Smith, Ethel Winnell, Bernard Cheasley, Dawn Nunn, Leslie Hungerford, Joyce Glanville, Donald Dowson, Maureen Hoban, William Mooney, Fred Ambler.* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord, our teacher and our friend,

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Service Rosters**

We are in need of people willing to help out as welcomers at our services, as well as those happy to help with dusting to spruce up the church before Sunday worship. If you would like to help out in these areas, please speak to Caroline Burge.

### **Bible Study**

Thank you for the heartening initial response. The proposed Bible study group will be focusing on the book of Jeremiah. We would like to hold our first session on Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at Christ Church Kilmore. From there, we will determine a frequency of meeting that suits everyone. If you'd like to join in, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

### **Love in Action**

This remains a vibrant and highly necessary community initiative, based in Broadford, providing food and other supplies to families in need. Donations of canned and long-life goods, pasta, children's snacks, etc. can be placed in the plastic containers at the entrance to your church. Thank you for your help, and continue to pray for this vital initiative. If you would like more information, please speak to Barbara Radford.

## Children First Foundation

This agency, based in East Kilmore, provides hospitality for children from overseas coming to Melbourne for vital surgery, and is always looking for volunteers. If you know of anyone who would like to volunteer, please speak to Fr. David.

## Pastoral Visiting

If you know of someone who could use a visit from a priest, e.g. illness, loneliness, grief, spiritual counselling, preparation for baptism or confirmation, please let Fr. David know. Call 0439 288 070.

**Direct Debit /EFT Offerings** – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name ‘Anglican Parish of Kilmore;’ BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

### This Week in the Parish:

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July:** 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:** 2.30pm: Dianella RACF Service

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:** 10am Mass, St Matthew’s Broadford  
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August:** 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF Service  
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August:** 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

<b>Next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August: Transfiguration of Our Lord:</b> Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Mark 9:2-10		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew’s, Broadford	11.00am	Ecumenical Eucharist
St Stephen’s, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

## Weekly Scripture Readings

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Ps 148; 149	Ps 144; 150
<i>Ignatius of Loyola</i>	2 Samuel 10	Proverbs 8:22-36
	John 8:31-47	Romans 4:1-12
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	Ps 74	Ps 75; 76
	2 Samuel 11:1-21	Proverbs 9
	John 8:48-59	Romans 4:13-25
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	Ps 77	Ps 78:1-15
	2 Samuel 11:22-12:15	Proverbs 10:1-16
	John 9:1-17	Romans 5:1-11
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	Ps 78:16-38	Ps 78:39-70
	2 Samuel 12:15-31	Proverbs 10:17-32
	John 9:18-38	Romans 5:12-21
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Ps 80	Ps 81
<i>John Baptist Vianney</i>	2 Samuel 13:1-19	Proverbs 11:1-15
	John 9:39-10:18	Romans 6:1-11
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Ps 82; 84	Ps 85; 87
<i>Oswald, king and martyr</i>	2 Samuel 13:20-14:3	Proverbs 11:16-31
	John 10:19-39	Romans 6:12-23

### **Parish Contacts**

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## **Parish Wardens:**

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**Rebecca Jones**, 3 First Street, Broadford, Ph 5784 4057

**Julie Wallis**, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

**Glenn McKenzie**, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958

**Facebook page link:** <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>  
or you can type in **Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook** into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link **Services Online** on the website.

## **Thoughts for the Week**

I actually think we have something to fear in this, not only emergent but pervasive trend of artificial intelligence (AI). It's no longer just a case of, oh I don't know how to work the computer. There is actually something genuinely sinister in the prospect of technology that's built not only to think, but to learn how to think. There have been countless movies written about 'killer AI', and a handful of morality tales around the subject. But it's no longer a thing of fantasy. Right now, one of the reasons Hollywood is on strike is because studio executives are investing in A.I. to write films and design their visual effects. How long will it be until we see A.I. not only in the production design, but also populating the cast of our films and television? The whole concept of A.I. is fundamentally immoral because it removes God-given human dignity; it's humanity trying to redefine human functionality, and by extension, lessens the value of human life. One doesn't need to be a computer expert to see that by trying to replace one's labour force with robots, you are trivialising the human condition; man's search for meaning that ultimately defines him. We were never meant to just work in pursuit of money, we were meant to pursue our calling: how we can best use what talents we have to further the common dignity of our fellow man. In doing so, we enlarge him in the sight and presence of God, and therefore reclaim that common dignity with God. Replacing man with A.I. is a path to spitting in the face of God, a defiance of the first Commandment. We must keep life and humanity sacred, in order to keep God sacred, and vice versa; machines can never be sacred.