



16th July 2023
**Seventh Sunday After
Pentecost**



Hymns: 111 427 112 654

Sentence

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. (*John 6:63,68*)

The Collect

Bountiful God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word: by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 25, beginning at verse 19.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am

famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 119, verses 105 to 112

R: Your words are spirit and life, O Lord.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. **R...**

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your decrees are my heritage for ever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes for ever, to the end. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, beginning at verse 1.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. *Hear the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

The one who sows on fertile ground will know and understand the word of God.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 13, beginning at the 1st verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 'Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, you sow your seeds of faith, hope and love in us; grow our hearts and wills to pray for the needs of the wider world.

We pray for places where ecosystems are devastated by human greed and a lack of proper stewardship. For places where animals do not live, or are not farmed in humane circumstances. For forests and soils and rivers where humans take more than their fair share and disrupt the balance of nature. Help us to take responsibility for your creation, and to stand up for just treatment for all creatures.

Lord, plant your word in us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for refugees, displaced persons, political prisoners, and victims of human trafficking. For people who are objectified, persecuted and forgotten, both in our local community, and places around the world. Help us to reflect on the blessings in our lives. Help us to find fresh ways to make those blessings possible for all.

Lord, plant your word in us.

Lord, Hear our prayer.

We pray for all ministers, preachers and evangelists; for all who interpret your holy word, and all who embody the living Word of God. Inspire us towards an incarnational ministry, living and sharing the example of Christ, and lead us towards those people, presently hidden from our eyes, who are in most need of your mercy.

Lord, plant your word in us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who struggle: physically, financially, emotionally and spiritually. For all who feel like they have no hope, or no one to turn to. Heal the pain of the suffering, bring relief to the disillusioned, and help us to lighten the hearts of those we find in our community who do not know the face of Christ. 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.*

Lord, plant your word in us,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful departed, that they may find rest in the eternal Kingdom. For all nearing the end of their lives, that they would know your peace. For those who did not know your friendship in life, that their souls would know your mercy and love. Bless and comfort all who mourn, and send us to be seeds of peace to all in grief or distress. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Joseph Heintz, Laurie Woodward, Cassie Scanlan, Pauline Javor, Cecil Lane, Jock Duncanson, Richard Sherwood, Angelina Gilhome, Gladys Habgood, Margaret Insley, Elinor Bowen, Joyce Brown, Norma Hedley, Samuel Fullard, Sue Charles-Jones, Elizabeth Parry, Doris Allen, Leslie Neill, Alan Finlay, Robert Masters, Jessie Grace, Kerren Cookson, Maliki Kioko, Ronald Eichstadt. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Jesus, bearer of all burdens.

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

Support for Anglicare Winter Appeal

Thank you to all those who supported the Anglicare Soup Luncheon last week. Whilst a number of parishioners enjoyed the warmth of some winter soup and donated money in aid of the Diocesan Anglicare Winter Appeal, others donated tinned soup to be given to our local Love in Action group in Broadford with the tub of donated tins at Christ Church overflowing last week. If anyone would like to make further donations (either monetary or with tinned foods), they are more than welcome. Monetary donations can be given to Caroline or paid directly into the Parish Account ensuring that a label is attached alerting our Parish Treasurer as to what the donation is for, and food, as always, can be left in the tubs at the back of our churches. Our luncheon raised \$150 which was a great effort. Well done.

Love in Action

This remains a vibrant and highly necessary community initiative, based in Broadford, providing food and other supplies to families in need. Demand for items comes in waves, and it will be listed here when certain items are needed. This week, if you would like to donate goods to Love in Action, we need:

- Children's snacks, e.g. museli bars, Le Snacks, cheese and biscuits, small bags of chips, SPC fruit cups.

Thank you for your help, and continue to pray for this vital initiative. If you would like more information, please speak to Barbara Radford.

Bible Study

If you would be interested in the idea of a regular Bible study group, please see Fr. David to register your interest

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 17th: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading, followed by volunteers meeting

Wednesday 19th July: 2.30pm: Dianella RACF Service

Thursday 20th July: 10am Mass, St Matthew’s Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 21st July: 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Saturday 22nd July: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday 23rd July: Mary Magdalene: Song of Songs 3:1-4; Psalm 63; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; John 20:1-18		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew’s, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen’s, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	No service
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	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 17th July	Ps 40	Ps 42; 43
	1 Samuel 31	Micah 6:1-8
	John 5:1-18	Galatians 5:1-15
Tuesday 18th July	Ps 41; 44:1-9	Ps 44:10-27
	2 Samuel 1:1-15	Micah 6:9-7:7
	John 5:19-30	Galatians 5:6-26
Wednesday 19th July	Ps 45	Ps 46; 47
	2 Samuel 1:17-27	Micah 7:8-20
	John 5:30-47	Galatians 6:1-10
Thursday 20th July	Ps 48	Ps 49
	2 Samuel 2:1-17	Song of 3YM: 1-22
	John 6:1-15	Galatians 6:11-18
Friday 21st July	Ps 50	Ps 119:41-64
	2 Samuel 2:18-3:1	Song of 3YM: 23-51
	John 6:16-34	Romans 1:1-15
Saturday 22nd July	Ps 32	Ps 30
	1 Samuel 16:14-23	Hosea 14
	Luke 7:36-8:3	Mark 15:40-16:8

Parish Contacts

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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 recently saw a discussion on social media about how we should address God: do we need to scrub out 'Father' in the 'Our Father'? Would it be better to talk about a Mother God? It got me thinking. I'm well aware of the growing distaste for any patriarchal aspects of organised religion. I'm also well aware that fathers and male authority figures can be confronting, triggering, or just plain conjuring the wrong image of God for people, based on our individual experience of masculinity. The short answer I've landed on for now is this: Father God is not the image we want, but it's the image we need. Motherly love is more unquestionably fierce, unconditional and all-encompassing. I dare say, even in this post-everything society, feminine love tends to be something we take as read. God is arguably best as a Father, not because masculine love is any stronger or better than feminine love, but because it is capricious, elusive and in some cases, downright untrustworthy. By and large, fathers are seldom 'there', whether physically or emotionally. Biologically, men are not as emotionally mature as women, in some cases just an 'id' on legs, and they have a harder time growing into parental responsibilities. A father's love is more akin to God's love, because we don't always feel its presence, or we don't always know its true nature, whether there are strings attached. We don't know how emotionally mature the divine intellect is that created us. God is Father because God is mysterious, and more of a puzzle to determine the nature of his love. Read from the Old Testament to the New, God himself is on a journey to figure out how to love us effectively, so that we will go on a similar journey to learn to love him in return.