



14th April 2024
Third Sunday of Easter



Sentence

Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. (*Acts 3:19–20*)

The Collect

Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 3, beginning at verse 12.

When Peter saw this, he said to them: ‘Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see ‘Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 4

R: You alone make me dwell in safety.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness: when I was hard-pressed you set me free; be gracious to me now and hear my prayer. Children of earth, how long will you turn my glory to my shame: how long will you love what is worthless and seek after lies? **R...**

Know that the Lord has shown me his wonderful kindness: when I call to the Lord he will hear me. Tremble, and do no sin: commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still. **R...**

Offer the sacrifices that are right: and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say 'Who will show us any good?: the light of your countenance, O Lord, has gone from us.' **R...**

Yet you have given my heart more gladness: that they have when their corn, wine and oil increase. In peace I will lie down and sleep: for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of John, chapter 2, beginning at verse 15.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever. See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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A reading from the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Lord, as we come to terms with your resurrection, and its implications for our life today, help us to find peace amidst the concerns we bring before you in prayer.

We are surrounded by people who cannot afford much food, but also by those who feel entitled to refuse all but the best and most expensive provisions. Help us to pay more attention to how we utilise food, and what needs to be done now to provide for those who go without even the basics of life. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by domestic violence, mistreated women, misguided children, and loveless families. Help us to be more intentional about keeping or restoring harmony in marriages, relationships and families. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by people who have lost hope. Help us to bring the gospel to people who are searching for meaning in life, and give us courage to be truthful

with others, even when the truth might be the last thing they want to hear. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by addictions of every kind. Help us to abide with the addicted, and guide them through the recovery of their lives, and help us to advocate for the removal of temptations, drugs and adult material from the attention of young people. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by those in pain and distress. We pray for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, particularly those known to us: *Joan Grimwade, Gail Piechowiak, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We are surrounded by those who mourn. Help us to comfort the bereaved, and we pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of their loved ones. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Brightie Lang, Rosemary Cawry, Catherine Campbell, Eric Williams, James Evans, Walter Rasmussen, Geoffrey Ryan, Alan Wicking, Dorothy Green, Jack Poulter, Serge Akishev, Ken Clifton, Ken Allen, Reginald Boyle, Marjorie Skinner, Barry Shaw, and Rev. Michael Nelson.* Lord, in your mercy. **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

Clergy Conference

Fr. David will be away at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Bright from Monday 15th April to Thursday 18th April. Any issues during this week, please refer to the Church Wardens. There will be no Mass at Broadford on Thursday 18th April.

Servers

We are looking for more people to help serve at the altar on Sundays. It is an important task, though fortunately not an onerous one. If you would like to help out with this ministry area, please see Fr. David or Caroline, and you will be taken through the procedures.

Parish Council

Due to Clergy Conference, Parish Council this month will be held on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm at Gavan Hall in Broadford. The monthly Op Shop committee meeting will therefore be held on Monday 22nd April at roughly 12.30pm.

Painting Workshop

Due to popular demand, another painting workshop with Fr. David is being planned. Depending on people's keenness and availability, this may be in March or April after Easter. If you would be interested in attending, please indicate to Fr. David when you'd be available, so that we can cater to as many people as we can.

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 15th April: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Thursday 18th April: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

NO MASS at St Matthew's

Friday 19th April: 10.30am Blue Cross Aged Care Service

10am-4pm Op Shop Trading

Saturday 20th April: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9am	Morning Prayer
St Matthew's, Broadford	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	11am	Holy Eucharist

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 15th April	Ps 104:1-25	Ps 104:26-37
	Leviticus 22:31-23:11	Exodus 19:1-15
	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 9:1-12
Tuesday 16th April	Ps 105:1-22	Ps 105:23-45
	Leviticus 23:22-38	Exodus 19:16-20:17
	1 Corinthians 1:10-19	John 9:13-23
Wednesday 17th April	Ps 106:1-24	Ps 106:25-50
	Leviticus 24	Exodus 20:18-21:6
	1 Corinthians 1:20-31	John 9:24-41
Thursday 18th April	Ps 107:1-22	Ps 107:23-43
	Leviticus 25:1-24	Exodus 22:20-23:3
	1 Corinthians 2:1-11	John 10:1-18
Friday 19th April	Ps 110; 111	Ps 112; 113
	Leviticus 26:3-20	Exodus 23:4-17
	1 Corinthians 2:12-3:4	John 10:19-30
Saturday 20th April	Ps 114; 115	Ps 116; 117
	Leviticus 26:27-45	Exodus 23:20-33
	1 Corinthians 3:5-17	John 10:31-42

Parish Contacts

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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

One statement in the scriptures that tends to give us pause is not actually out of the mouth of Jesus, but Pilate; the man who handed Christ over to be crucified. The statement is thus: 'what is truth?' Have you ever encountered someone who claims their motivation for doing something is 'God's will', or 'God told me so'? It's as though they have their own personal hotline to God or something. It's probably a good idea, actually, if you come across someone with this claim, to say: 'how do you know?' How do they know it's God's will, if they are hearing one thing, and yet you yourself are hearing something completely different? What is happening here is actually a difference or imbalance in power. What is truth? Well we know that the truth is meant to set us free, but when the truth gives an unfair amount of power, stature and influence to an individual over another or group of individuals, it's actually a form of control. It's a form of abuse. Abuse of people, abuse of responsibility. There's many variations of it: 'God put me here', 'God put me in charge'. Funnily enough, another variation on Pilate's initial statement is one that communities of faith should be asking more often: 'where is God in this?' It's time we had a reassessment of how we pray and discern, about when and where we are being led, versus when and where we are being dragged along. How we are participating, versus how we are merely spectating. The only way things will change is if different voices are given a chance to be heard. If a voice seems unproductive or unhelpful, that voice still needs airspace so that the mind behind it has a chance to grow and develop more informed opinions. Power cannot rest squarely with a select individual or niche few, without the gospel or its mission suffering as a result. What is truth? Are we being fed, as the Good Shepherd feeds his flock, or are we being force-fed one-sided counterintuitive doctrine designed to keep certain insecure people in positions of power? If you see an abuse of power, make a note of it.

Document it. Photograph it. We've all got recording devices in our phones. Dark deeds need to come to light, so that the truth may win out in the end.