



**12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday  
After Pentecost**



**Sentence**

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.  
(*Matthew 24:42, 44*)

**The Collect**

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ the bridegroom comes, we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; 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 Joshua, chapter 24, beginning at verse 14.*

‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’ But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’ And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the Lord!’ Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.’

The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 78, verses 1 to 7*

**R: Tell each new generation of the glory of the Lord**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. **R...**

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. **R...**

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; **R...**

that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. **R...**

### **Second Reading**

*A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 9.*

Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together

with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*Hear the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Look, for the bridegroom is coming and is now here; let us go out to meet him.

**Alleluia!**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 25, beginning at the first verse.*

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

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Prayers of the People**

Heavenly Father, we look to you for the strength to keep awake though the world continues to weary us. Hear us when we ask for mercy on your people.

We pray for peace in our times; that world leaders may be moved to humility and contrition, and start to repair the damage done by warmongering. We pray for all those caught in conflicts in the Middle East and Europe; for places where there is civil unrest and corruption. Seek out the innocent, protect them, and encourage your faithful people to do the same.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor and needy in our community; for those whose need is great, but who suffer in silence. Help us to be better stewards of food, healthcare and other necessities of life. Give us eyes to seek out those in poverty of any kind, and hearts to care for them, no matter the cost.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for marriages and families that are struggling; bring love back into loveless unions, give parents patience with their children, protect those who suffer at the hands of abusive partners. Rekindle the sanctity of marriage and family life, and give wisdom to young people discerning a life partner.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and suffering, in body, mind or spirit; those in hospital, those undergoing treatment, and those who grapple with chronic pain or mental illness. We remember those who have asked for our prayers: *Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff 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 pray for those who mourn, and for the repose of those they have lost. May they be greeted with joy at the heavenly feast, and comfort we who remain with the certainty of eternal life and peace. We bring to mind those we have lost recently, and those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *William Smith, Fred Wright, Lyle McMahon, Marjorie Shanahan, Doreen Wickman, Herbert Chapman, Eugenie Tomlinson, and Johan Sleep.* 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**

### **Bible Study**

Our next Bible study session will be Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore. Join us in our journey through the book of Jeremiah.

### **Parish Council**

Parish Council will meet this Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore. Accordingly, the Op Shop will have their staff meeting on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Parish AGM and Annual Reports**

We are looking at holding our AGM on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm, beginning with a service of Evening Prayer. If there is a better day and time around this date, please let Fr. David know and we can adjust. Please can all those responsible for annual parish reports, get these to Caroline as soon as possible please. Reports are required from: Christ Church, St Matthew's, St Stephen's, Transfiguration, Gavan Hall, St Matthew's Village, Op Shop, Treasurer, Parish Council, Parish Priest, Publicity, Gardening Group, St Matthew's Friendship Group. Thank you.

## **Melbourne Cup Lunch Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who supported the Melbourne Cup Fundraising lunch last week. It was great to see a good group attend, with \$311 being raised for ABM. If you didn't get around to donating, and still wish to do so, donations can still be given to Fr David or Caroline, or paid into our Parish bank account. Thank you.

## **Love in Action**

Families we serve are feeling the stress of the season to provide for their kids at Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a child for Christmas whereby you are prepared to buy a new and decent gift, please contact Barbara Radford (0412 287 306). Love in Action needs to have these gifts delivered by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Alternatively, you can provide a donation to the Love in Action bank account for the volunteers to purchase the gift. Christmas foods are also needed for hampers, including lollies, chocolates, tins of shortbread or biscuits, nuts, chips, Christmas serviettes, etc. Many thanks for your support.

## **Working Bee at Christ Church**

We have been informed by the Shire Council that we need to get rid of the Shipping Container off our property. This will need to be cleaned out. If anyone would like to organise a working bee, please let Caroline know.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> November:** 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** 1pm: Caladenia RACF Service  
2.30pm: Dianella RACF service

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November:** 10am Mass, St Matthews Broadford  
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November:** 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF service

10am-4pm: Op Shop Trading  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November:** 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

<b>Next Sunday Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost 19<sup>th</sup> November: Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost:</b> Judges 4:1-10; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St Matthew's, Broadford	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

### Weekly Scripture Readings

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 35:1-17	Ps 35:18-29; 36
	2 Kings 15:23-38	Esther 9:1-19
	Matthew 22:34-46	Revelation 3:1-6
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 34	Ps 119:17-40
	2 Kings 16	Esther 9:20-10:3
	Matthew 23:1-15	Revelation 3:7-13
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 37:1-17	Ps 37:18-41
	2 Kings 17:1-20	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
	Matthew 23:16-28	Revelation 3:14-22
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 38	Ps 39
<i>Margaret of Scotland</i>	2 Kings 17:21-41	Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:8
	Matthew 23:29-39	Revelation 4

<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 40	Ps 42; 43
<i>Hilda of Whitby</i>	2 Kings 18:1-16	Ecclesiastes 2:9-23
	Matthew 24:1-14	Revelation 5
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Ps 41; 44:1-9	Ps 44:10-27
	2 Kings 18:17-37	Ecclesiastes 2:24-3:9
	Matthew 24:15-31	Revelation 6:1-11

### **Parish Contacts**

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### **Parish Wardens:**

**Caroline Burge**, 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore, Mobile 0409 822 180

**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**

Let's face it some people are happy enough without God. Some people are happy enough without religion trying to tell them how to live their life all the time. There is comfort in ignorance; that is, not educating oneself in the machinations of the church, the lives of the saints, the patterns of Christian prayer and festivals. Outside of the big commercial ones, of course. The Christmas and Easter people. Yet without the context we learn through the rest of the year, such festivals are effectively meaningless to those who close themselves off from even the most rudimentary attempts at belief. Commercial festivals are about spending, indulgence, and of course, the time-honoured tradition of family. Yes, families tend to be happier without God. Right? Well, I beg to differ. Families without God, i.e. those in whom Christian belief is not shared by at least both parents, are more likely to fall apart at the seams when the going gets tough. Because there is no moral fortitude, no spiritual

groundwork to act as foundation for the family's values. Relationships, whether or not they deign to consider the subject of marriage (in the eyes of God), become all about financial stability, emotional security, physical intimacy, and teaching prosperity and shrewdness to children rather than integrity and compassion. Human pillars are flesh and blood; they will crumple and break under the weight of hardship. People may seem content without God, until they run out of people to turn to. Relationships dissolve, trust is broken, money burns, physical pleasures only scratch a very momentary itch. What is the foundation from which springs recovery? This has to be of a spiritual nature. This has to be a sense of strength coming from an intangible, indefatigable other. God is not only strength, he is direction and focus for one's life. He expands our possibilities by making us think outside the box of what might be materially or financially possible. He gives us the sanctuary of personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the ability to share the nature of that relationship with others, so that they might come to know the one who will never abandon them. But if we must measure success by 'happy families', the family will only truly be content if both parents know how to pray and teach the scriptures to their children. United, the house will stand; divided, it will undoubtedly fall.