

Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**25th March**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale

**26th March**  
 7.00 pm Parish Council  
 Parish Ministry Centre

**30th March**  
 10.00 am Combined Parish Worship  
 and  
 11.30 am Parish Community Growth  
 Meeting  
 Epiphany Meredith

**2nd April**  
 11.00 am Communion  
 Estia Health, Bannockburn

**4th April**  
 7.40 pm Geelong v Melbourne  
 GMHBA Stadium

**5th April**  
 9.00 am Devonshire Tea  
 Parish Ministry Centre

**8th April**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale

**15th April**  
 7.00 pm House Group  
 Teesdale

**17th April**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 7.00 pm Community Meal  
 Parish Ministry Centre

**18th April**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
 9.00 am Liturgy of the Cross  
 St Paul's Inverleigh

**20th April**  
**EASTER DAY**

**23rd April**  
 7.00 pm Parish Council  
 Parish Ministry Centre

**Parish Directory**

**Parish Office** 5281 2553  
**Vicar**  
 Revd Timothy Smith  
 0412 673 152  
**revdrtim@hotmail.com**

**Wardens**  
 Darrell Blackman 0457 338 678  
 Carol Newlands 0409 654 527  
 David Bannister 0477 564 268

**Parish Council Secretary**  
 Carol Newlands 0409 654 527

**Parish Treasurer**  
 David Osborne 0419 398 455

**Assistant Treasurer**  
 Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

**St John's Op Shop**  
 Naomi Peel 0418 346 484

**Surprise Op Shop**  
 Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

**Parish Roster for March 30**

**MEREDITH:**  
**Reading:** Christina Szabo  
 + one

**Communion Assistant:**  
 Meredith: Geoff Morgan  
 Carol Newlands

**Morning Tea:** Bring to share



**Golden Plains Anglican News**  
*Living the Gospel in Our Community*  
 Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith Anglican Parish  
 23rd March 2025—THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**HOPE: FROM ISAIAH 40-55**

Vivian Wang tells of her story of learning a deeper trust in God through difficulty.

I've often heard that suffering is the touchstone of faith. I believe many people choose to follow the Lord and have their faith refined in times of suffering.

I first came to know Christ through a friend who would invite me to her Christmas gatherings. There, I met many Christians and witnessed the flourishing of the church, which made me want to learn more about God. God prepared a lady to lead me in Bible study, and she always prayed for my problems. She would say, 'One day, you will understand.' When I was willing to open my heart and let Jesus be the Lord of my life, I looked back on my journey and realised that God had showered me with grace in the midst of my suffering.

The test of faith also came to me as a Jesus' follower. In March 2023, my shop was relocating. Though I considered myself experienced and capable, this time I didn't handle the renovations like I did the previous times. Instead, I chose to let go of myself and entrust everything to God. Because I am His child, I believe that my Father in heaven will surely take care of me.

After much consultation and consideration, a contractor found me. I believed he was the person God had prepared. However, he created problems and continually wore me out. At the same time, I was working fulltime and studying part-time. I became physically and mentally exhausted. I lost my appetite and started having insomnia. Despite this, I



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**Worship Today: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Sentence:** 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,' says the Lord. *Isaiah 55:9*

**Collect:** O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst you offer the living water that springs from the rock, our Saviour Jesus Christ: stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may profess our faith with freshness and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:31-35

**Hymns:**

**Inverleigh:** 648 – Help us accept each other; 428 – Help us, O Lord, to learn; 347 – We sing the praise of him who died; 555 – Put all your trust in God

**Bannockburn:** *Father God I wonder; We cannot measure; You laid aside your majesty; Great is thy faithfulness; Jesus Christ; Blessed be your name; Be bold*

**Meredith:** *Father God I wonder; We cannot measure; You laid aside your majesty; Great is thy faithfulness; Blessed be your name; Jesus Christ*

**Intercessions:** God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**World:** all national leaders and those in authority that they may work together for justice and peace in the world; for Sudan, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, and all nations in conflict, war or the threat of war; for South Sudan, Bangladesh, and all developing nations seeking revitalisation with security, housing, education, employment, medical intervention, food, freedom, and clean water, those displaced from homelands, suffering poverty, hunger, loss, injury; refugees or asylum seekers; may we trust in the nature of God to act for the orphans, widows, poor and oppressed and hope for a world of justice and mercy.

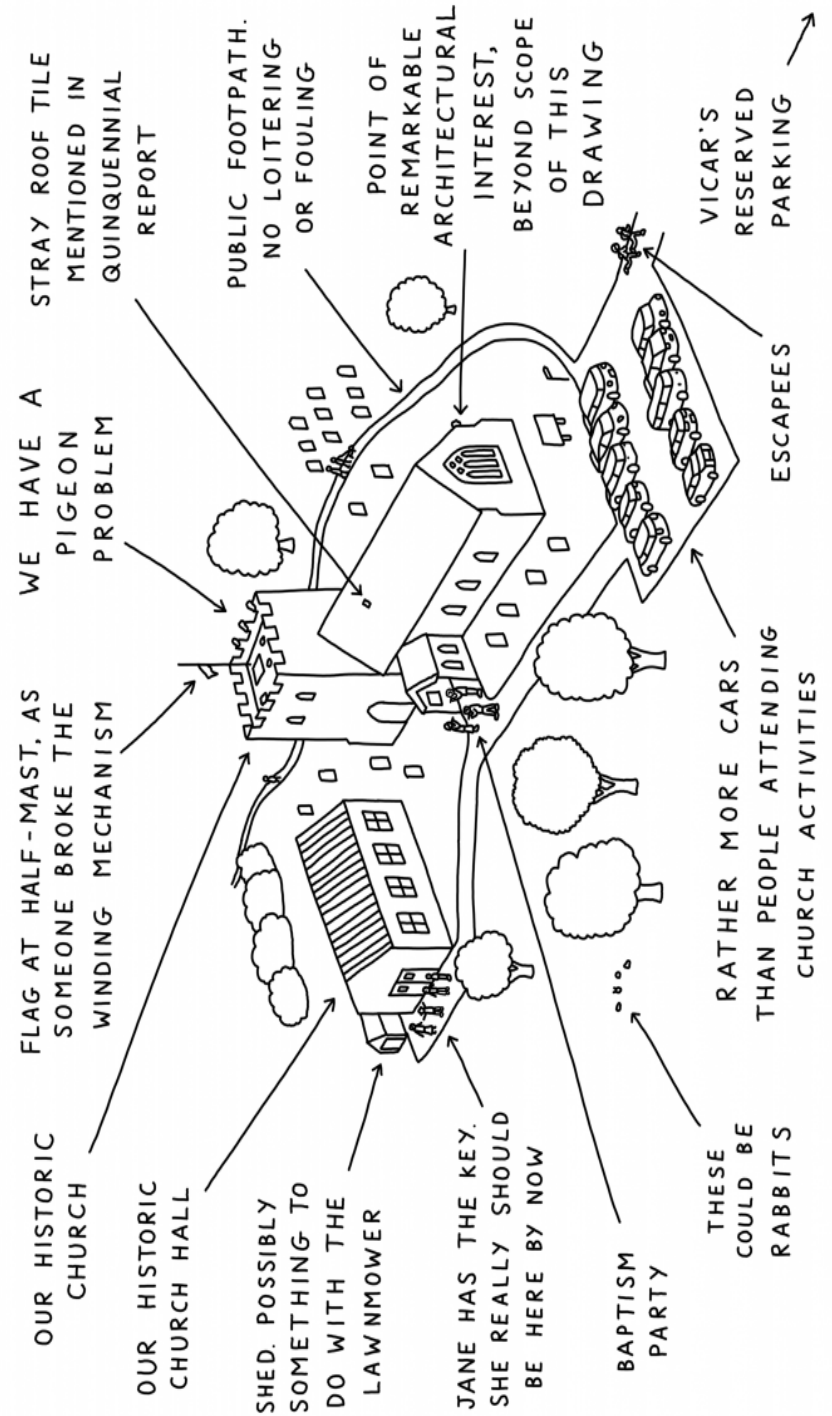
**Church:** for all church leaders and the unity of the worldwide Church, our Diocese in this time of leadership transition; the Board of Nominators and a unity of Spirit for the election of a new archbishop; the establishment of the Youth and Family Community Cinema at Meredith, to identify our hopes in the nature and person of God and be inspired to undertake personal and corporate acts for the growth of his church; may we see God at work in and through us that feeds our hope.

**Community:** the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples, their elders; those working toward reconciliation and treaty, recognition of the country on which we live, work and play; for all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith that they will experience welcome; for who are struggling with life; that our neighbours will be find a new and better hope.

**Those in need:** Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, John Thornton, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Mary Simpson, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Timothy Deng.

# THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE



(Continued from page 1)

still believed that God would remove the suffering and bring everything to fruition. I prayed continuously, entrusting everything to God and seeking His will.

In the end, the contractor took almost all the money and never returned. A sister prayed for me and said, 'Don't lose faith in God.' As I left her house, I began to think, 'God didn't intervene in this unfair situation. Do I still trust Him? Do I still love Him?'

The very next day, God intervened. I met a friend I hadn't seen in years, and he resolved my electricity and air conditioning issues. Another friend introduced me to a plumber, who fixed all the renovation problems in a single day.

I see that for God, solving a problem can happen in a single day. More importantly, I've experienced that with God's grace, I can surely overcome suffering.

Indeed, 'I had heard of You before, but now I have seen You with my own eyes.'

### Questions for reflection:

1. How do you reconcile the idea in Isaiah that the discipline through suffering and ultimate comfort come from the same source of God's heart?
2. Isaiah 40:1-11 reflects the exodus from Egypt under Moses. How does the 40 years in the wilderness reveal hope through God's discipline of suffering and comfort?
3. In what ways does Jesus as servant and his suffering and death on the cross give you hope?
4. In what ways does your life manifest that God brings you strength of faith and knowledge of God's grace through suffering? How does that give you hope facing difficulties in the future?
5. Can you think of someone going through a time of difficulty? How could you share that hope with someone who is going through a time of difficulty?

### Pray:

God of hope, you call us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world. By your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service. Through our words and actions may the same Spirit bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## Bible Readings

### Prayer for the week:

Lord God, our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Monday

Abp Oscar Romero (d.1980) *Martyr*  
Paul Couturier (d.1953) *Saint*

**Morning:** Pss 56 & 57  
Genesis 46:26-47:12  
Luke 15:1-10

**Evening:** Pss 60 & 61  
Jeremiah 32:1-15  
Hebrews 10:5-18

### Tuesday

ANNUNCIATION TO MARY *Mary*

**Morning:** Ps 85  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Hebrews 2:5-18

**Evening:** Ps 89:1-4, 19-36  
Genesis 3:8-15  
Romans 5:12-21

### Wednesday

**Morning:** Pss 65 & 70  
Genesis 48  
Luke 16:1-13

**Evening:** Ps 66  
Jeremiah 32:16-35  
Hebrews 10:32-39

### Thursday

**Morning:** Ps 68:1-20  
Genesis 49:1-21  
Luke 16:14-31

**Evening:** Ps 68:(21-23)24-35  
Jeremiah 33:10-26  
Hebrews 11:1-12

### Friday

**Morning:** Ps 71  
Genesis 49:22-50:6  
Luke 17:1-19

**Evening:** Ps 119:65-88  
Jeremiah 34:(1-7)8-22  
Hebrews 11:13-28

### Saturday

John Keble, Priest (d.1866) *Saint*

**Morning:** Ps 69:1-16  
Genesis 50:7-26  
Luke 17:20-37

**Evening:** Ps 69:17-23(24-30)31-38  
Jeremiah 35  
Hebrews 11:29-40



**BANNOCKBURN FIRE BRIGADE**

**100 YEAR**

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

🕒 6pm-8:30pm Sat 5th April 2025

📍 25 High Street Bannockburn

Join the Bannockburn Fire Brigade as we celebrate 100 years of volunteer service to the community!

- ✓ Vintage fire truck display
- ✓ Food Vendors
- ✓ Brigade History Display
- ✓ Skills challenges
- ✓ Fire simulation demonstration
- ✓ Meet Captain Koala

**Next Sunday 30th March  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
HOPE from Jesus' Words  
10.00 am Parish Communion**

Epiphany Meredith

**Readings**

Joshua 5:2-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:11-32

**11.30 am Parish Community  
Growth Meeting  
Epiphany Meredith**