

<b>5th May</b>	7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
<b>6th May</b>	11.00 am Communion	Estia Health Bannockburn
<b>7th May</b>	6.00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	St Paul's Inverleigh
<b>8th May</b>	3.00 pm Vucicevic&Craven Wedding	St Paul's Inverleigh
<b>9th May</b>	8.30 am Men's Breakfast	Parish Ministry Centre
	7.35 pm Geelong v Collingwood	MCG
<b>12th May</b>	7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
<b>18th May</b>	2.30 pm Chaplaincy Supervision	Vicar's Study
<b>19th May</b>	7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale
<b>20th May</b>	12.30 pm Deanery Meeting	St John's Highton
<b>23rd May</b>	4.15 pm Geelong v Sydney	GMHBA
<b>26th May</b>	7.00 pm House Group	Teesdale

**Parish Roster for 10th May**

**Church Cleaning:**

**Inverleigh:** Liz McDonald  
**Bannockburn:** Wendy Wood  
 Ivan Marsetti

**Reader:**

**Bannockburn:** Ivan Marsetti

**Communion Assistants:**

**Inverleigh:** Geoff Morgan  
**Bannockburn:** Carol Newlands

**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

**Pastoral Care**  
 pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com

**"I wish to encourage those who have already chosen goodness, justice, peace, tolerance, and reconciliation. Together with millions of men and women of good will, I call for the conversion of those who choose adverse paths that hinder harmonious and fraternal development."**

**-Pope Leo XIV**

**Golden Plains Anglican News**

*Living the Gospel in Our Community*

†Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith  
 3rd May 2026—FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**NOT BURNTOUT—SOUL WOUNDED**

*Many pastors right now are not just tired. They are wounded.*

The language that may fit better than burnout is this: many are carrying a soul wound — the kind of deep, inner hurt that forms when the work we believe God has called us to do feels compromised by forces we cannot control. It shows up when every choice feels like a loss, when the church we love no longer seems shaped by the gospel in the way we once believed, and when faithfulness costs more than we ever expected whether we are ordained or lay.

One American Pastor said that during the last election season she felt when she it was like walking through a minefield. If she spoke about truth, humility, or loving enemies, people assumed she was taking political sides. If she said nothing, others called her cowardly. She said, "I felt like the Sermon on the Mount had become controversial." What wounded her was the sense that loyalty to politics had become stronger than loyalty to Christ.

Another Pastor described preaching after a national crisis involving racial violence. He believed the gospel required him to speak about justice and repentance, but some members told him he had become political. Later he said, "I felt like I had to choose between telling the truth as I understand it and keeping the church together." When a pastor feels forced to choose between conscience and survival, something inside begins to break.

Many of us entered ministry believe we were called to witness to people shaped by the gospel. But currently it can feel as if the gospel has to compete with ideology, fear, and the constant noise of the world around us. We begin to carry a quiet grief that few people see.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Parish Ministry Centre: 11 Byron Street, BANNOCKBURN VIC, 3331  
 (03) 5281 2553 revdrtim@hotmail.com  
 www.goldenplainsanglican.org  
 www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsAnglicans

**Worship Today: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Sentence:** 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' *John 14:6*

**Collect:** Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:11-25; John 14:1-14

**Hymns:**  
**Inverleigh:** 387 – Christ is alive; 427 – Lord your word abiding; 594 – Fight the good fight with all thy might; 457 – The church's one foundation

**Bannockburn:** *Christ is risen*; Christ is alive; Lord I lift your name on high; Father I place in your hands; The blind man; *Jesus Christ*; My goal is God himself; *One Way*

**Meredith:** *Christ is risen*; Christ is alive; Lord I lift your name on high; My goal is God himself; The church's one foundation; *Jesus Christ*

**Intercessions: In your mercy, hear our prayer**

**World:** peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, United States, Iran, the Middle East, and all places in, and affected by, conflict or war; South Sudan and all developing nations; wherever there is terror, violence, injustice, loss of freedom, racism, hunger, displacement, and homelessness; that all national leaders and law makers will have a spirit that enables the needs of all people physically, mentally, spiritually, in cultural diversity; may God's kingdom become a reality in all nations and children will know war no more.

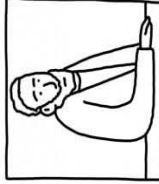

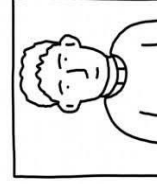
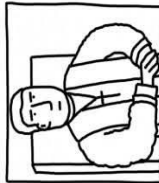
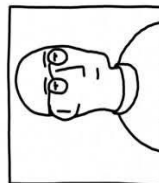
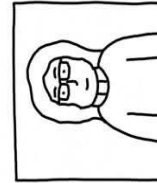
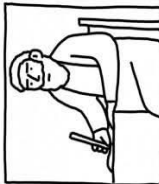

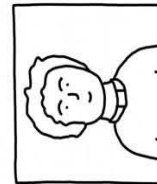
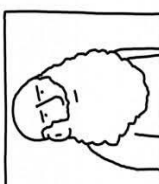

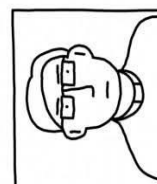
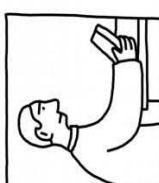
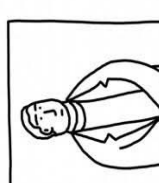
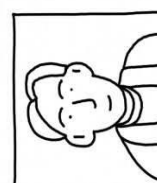


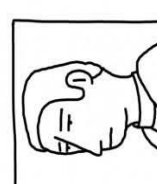
**Church:** unity of the Anglican Communion, Abp Sarah Mullaley; our Diocese Abp Ric Thorpe, our Bp Genieve; God's blessing on all our outreach ministries: Youth and Family Community Cinema, Thursday Lunch, Men's Breakfast, Op Shops, and all the non-church community groups in which our members are active, may our presence be an opportunity to share the good news of God's kingdom for an uncertain world and invite others to join us in faith.

**Weddings:** Elise Craven and Luke Vucicevic (St Pauls, May 8)

**Community:** the Wadawarrung and all custodians of country on which we live and work, for reconciliation and treaty with our First Nations Peoples; for all the communities of our Parish especially Inverleigh, Bannockburn, and Meredith; to be catalysts of welcome and belonging as communities in diversity; those facing mortgage and rental stress, increasing costs of living, fuel, and insurances; where there is food insecurity, and the threat of homelessness; all those who make their living from the land.

**Those in need:** Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Jesse Osborne, Phil Dickson, Paul Duke, Josie Andrews, Josie Harvey, Steve and Stacey Copland, Timothy Deng and Weng, Mawut Gotbaai, Judith Palmer-Howlett, and all others on our heart and mind.

PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS

	NAME ON A PLAQUE		BUILT CHURCH ON NEW ESTATE		KEPT THE PLACE GOING
	DID WONDERS FOR THE ROSES		WROTE A BOOK		STARTED THE FOOD BANK
	FOUNDED THE SCHOOL		LEFT UNDER A CLOUD		BEFRIENDED THE METHODISTS
	MAGNIFICENT BEARD		ABOLISHED INNOVATIONS		PUB OUTREACH MINISTRY
	INSTALLED GAS LIGHTING		INTRODUCED INNOVATIONS		UPSET THE FLOWER ARRANGERS
	BUILT THE TOWER		LARGELY ABSENT		DAY OFF: FRIDAY

(Continued from page 1)

We need to begin simply telling the truth about what this feels like. Some seasons of ministry are busy or discouraging. The prophets knew that feeling. Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Paul wrote about his anguish for the churches. Lament is faith refusing to pretend.

It also helps to remember that we are not the saviours, Jesus is and continues to be.

We also have to resist the pressure to become political referees. Our calling is not to defend a particular party but to keep pointing to Christ and the claims of the gospel on all of us.

Another hard lesson is learning that unity does not mean agreement. If we think this way, we will live in constant disappointment. The early church was conflicted, yet it stayed together because Christ was at the centre, even when it is hard, then the work remains holy.

A soul wound deepens in isolation. We also need places where we do not have to have all the answers. We need friends who simply know us as people. Even Jesus stepped away from the crowds to be with his disciples.

We also need to accept that not everyone in the congregation wants the same kind of church we want. Some want comfort, some want certainty, some want change, some want the past. We cannot satisfy all of them and to try costs our soul.

The soul wound can be devastating, and difficult, perhaps impossible, to keep going. Some step away from church. Some clergy retire earlier than they planned. Some withdraw, their spirit going quiet, finding shelter and simply trying to heal. Others carry an anger that won't settle, frustration that lingers, a sadness they can't quite name. If that is you, you are not alone. What you are feeling is the weight of loving something deeply. There is no shame in needing rest, in pulling back, enabling our soul to find its footing again.

Sometimes a soul wound comes from loving the church more than the church loves the gospel. That hurts. But it may also mean we are serving in one of those seasons when faithfulness costs more than we expected. So we keep going. Not because it is easy. Not because we can fix everything. But because the One who called us is still faithful, and the church we are trying to hold together ultimately rests in hands stronger than ours.

*Rick Kirchoff of Clergy Coaching Network (edited) <https://www.facebook.com/share/1EmHoX895P/>*

## ORGAN RECITAL at ST PAUL'S GEELONG

### The Embrace of Fire

Tom Healey (organ)

Helen Seymour (mezzo soprano)

7.30pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, St Paul's, 171 LaTrobe Tce

Program includes a song cycle by local composer, Michael Hannan, with soprano, Helen Seymour (who wrote the poems). Also, organ music by Widor, Bach Cesar Franck, Hans Zimmer (from 'Pirates of the Caribbean').

**\$20/under 18 free. Cash or Card at the door.**

## Bible Readings

### Prayer for the week:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Monday

**Morning:** PsS 11 & 12  
Numbers 13:1-3, 17-29  
1 Corinthians 7:12-24

**Evening:** Pss 13 & 14  
Exodus 32:1-14  
John 12:20-33

### Tuesday

**Morning:** Pss 15 & 16  
Numbers 13:30-14:25  
1 Corinthians 7:25-35

**Evening:** Ps 17:1-13(14)15-16  
Exodus 32:15-35  
John 12:34-43

### Wednesday

**Morning:** Ps 18:1-31  
Numbers 14:26-45  
1 Corinthians 7:36-40

**Evening:** Ps 18:32-38(39-44)45-52  
Exodus 33:1-17  
John 12:44-50

### Thursday

**Morning:** Ps 19  
Numbers 16:1-19  
1 Corinthians 8

**Evening:** Ps 119:1-16  
Exodus 33:18-34:10  
John 13:1-11

### Friday

Julian of Norwich (d.1417) holy woman *Ascetic*

**Morning:** Pss 20 & 21:1-7(8-13)  
Numbers 16:20-40  
1 Corinthians 9:1-14

**Evening:** Pss 24 & 26  
Exodus 34:11-24(25-26)  
John 13:12-20

### Saturday

**Morning:** Ps 22:1-22  
Numbers 16:41-17:12  
1 Corinthians 9:15-27

**Evening:** Pss 22:23-32 & 23  
Exodus 34:27-35:9  
John 13:21-35



**Next Sunday 10th May  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
8.00 am Holy Communion**

Inverleigh

**10.00 am All-Age Communion**

Bannockburn

**5.00 pm Holy Communion**

Meredith

**Readings**

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-19

1 Peter 3:8-22

John 14:15-21