

Anglican Parish of Avon

Sunday 26 July Pentecost 9

Welcome to services of
Holy Communion at
8.30am St Mary's Munro
10am Holy Trinity, Stratford

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A TREASURE
HIDDEN IN THE FIELD,
WHICH A MAN FOUND AND HID AGAIN;
AND FROM JOY OVER IT HE GOES AND SELLS ALL
THAT HE HAS AND BUYS THAT FIELD.

Matthew 13:44



We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: 'It only takes a spark'

1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread His love to everyone;
you want to pass it on.

2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing; the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it you want to sing,
it's fresh like spring; you want to pass it on.

3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;
you can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountaintop,
I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

*Words and music by Kurt Kaiser
Mission Praise 348
© Bud John Songs
CCLI# 14284*

Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country/Welcome

Call to worship

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:

tell among the peoples what things he has done.

Sing to him, O sing praises:

and be telling of all his marvellous works.

Exult in his holy name:

and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

The Sentence

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8.38–39)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray,

Loving God,

thank you for calling us to worship today.

**Thank you for sending your Spirit to speak to and for our spirits,
strengthening our weary souls**

**and empowering us to live and serve.
Send your Spirit into our worship today,
that we may fully sense your presence
and embrace your mysterious wisdom.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

The Confession

**God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and
inviting them to the Lord's table.**

Silence for self-reflection

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's
forgiveness.

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Prayer of the Day - Together

**O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Early talk

The Ministry of the Word

The First Reading

A Reading from Genesis

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to

Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ ²⁶ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Genesis 29.15-28

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

The Second Reading

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of

us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.26-39

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ ‘Have you

understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ ⁵² And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. ⁵⁴ He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?’ ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?’ ⁵⁷ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.’ ⁵⁸ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief. *Matthew 13.44-58*

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Panel Discussion

Homily

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: ‘God, when human bonds are broken’

1 God! When human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.

2 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.

3 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.

4 Give us faith to be more faithful,

give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God! Encourage and renew!

*Words by Frederik Herman Kaan, 1929-
Tune: The Servant Song (TiS 650)
Together in Song 683
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CCLI # 4344207*

Offertory Prayer

**Holy God, you bless us with gifts of love
and moments of grace and mercy.
For this earth and its bounty,
we give you our thanks.
For our lives and for the opportunity
to share them with those we love,
we offer you our praise.
Bless the gifts we lay before you,
that they may be signs of your loving kingdom
to a world awaiting good news.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.
All the good we see comes from you.
You have always loved us
but people have not always loved you.
You sent Jesus to show us how to live
and to bring us back to you again.

He died for us on the cross
so that through your Spirit
we can all be your people.

And so with thanks
we praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We are here because on the night before he died
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

There he took some bread
and gave thanks to you, God.

He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.

“This is my body,” he said,

“Do this, and know that I am with you.”

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.

he shared it with them, and said

“This is my blood, which brings new life.

Do this, and know that I am with you.”

And so, remembering Jesus, who died,

was raised to new life by you,

and is alive forever,

we are glad to share that life and live in him

And proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come in glory.

Send your Holy Spirit

so that this bread and wine

can be for us the body and blood of Jesus,

**and through this food
give us strength to live as your people.**

**Help us to care for your world and for each other
in the way that Jesus showed us.
Until he comes again,
with all your people
in every time and every land
we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God,
let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with
thanksgiving.

The Sending Out of God's People

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words**

**and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Announcements

Missional Hymn: 'Amazing grace'

1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Chorus:

*My chains are gone, I've been set free,
my God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.*

3 The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
My chains are gone...

4 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below
will be forever mine.
My chains are gone...

*Words and music by Chris Tomlin
Mission Praise 1151
© sixsteps Music
CCLI# 4768151*

The Blessing and Dismissal

God who has called you is faithful.

Go into the world with joy,

forgive generously,

love extravagantly,

live abundantly.

And the blessing of God,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you now and for ever.

Amen.

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve our God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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B. J. Beu and Mary Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2024), 186.

From Bishop Richard: - Please pray for General Synod 19, Melbourne, 9-14 August

General Synod (the synod of the Anglican Church of Australia) will meet for the first time since 2022 in Melbourne next month.

These are important gatherings of lay people, clergy, and bishops from every diocese in the national church, as well as representatives from extra-diocesan chaplaincies and other sector ministries.

Please pray for our Primate, +Mark Short, as he prepares to preside over General Synod for the first time, and for the recently appointed General Secretary of the ACA, Juliet Wenden, as she and her team at the General Synod Office prepare to help administer the five-day meeting.

Remember also our elected, appointed, and *ex officio* Gippsland representatives - Marion Dewar, Rae Riley, Keren Terpstra, John Webster, and me - as we review the papers and seek to represent the

Diocese to the wider church and *vice versa*, and to engage in the worship, fellowship and deliberations of the 19th General Synod.

Bulletin Prayer Points

Father God, we ask You to bless us with the gift of wisdom and understanding as we bring our prayers before the throne of mercy, with humility and confidence.

Holy Father, we pray for our Bishop Richard and his family, for all Bishops, Deans, Priests and all faith leaders. We give you thanks and pray for our priest Dave, may your Holy Spirit guide and protect him in all that he gives and does. Bless Emma and their children.

We pray for the ministry of school chaplains, especially Dr Steve.

Creator God, we pray for your world. Forgive us when we are ungrateful when spiritual blindness prevents us from appreciating the wonder of your creation and the endless cycle of nature. Forgive us for taking without giving; reaping without sowing.

God of peace, we pray for all people subjected to war, cruelty, starvation and trauma suffered by the people of Ukraine, the Middle East and all other countries suffering political suppression. May the conflict over the strait of Hormuz be resolved and ships of supplies to the world, safely pass through.

Loving Creator, we celebrate the enduring cultures, histories, and strengths of First Nations peoples. Forgive the deep pains of history and grant us the courage to walk together in truth and justice. Guide us to listen deeply, respect one another, and build a harmonious future

We pray for the sick, sad and lonely of our parish and for those who care for them. For Dola, Kerrie, Gail, Barb, Fiona, George, Paul, Edie, Tim, Keith, Angela, Cynthia, Lloyd, Dawn, Mick, Judy, Deb, Joy, Marion, Jan and Graeme.

We pray for those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they be experiencing God's glory.

We pray for all who mourn, may they feel God's loving comfort beside them.

Almighty God, hear the words of your servant people as we voice our needs and concerns before you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

NEWS AND NOTES

Good morning, friends,

Today we are indeed privileged to warmly welcome The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane and The Very Reverend Daniel Faricy, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral Rockhampton. We give thanks to God and thank them both for their presence with us today.

The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt is Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. From 1997 to 2007 Peter was the Dean of Grafton. He helped establish and run the International Philosophy, Science and Theology Festival, which was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton. He holds a PhD in evolutionary microbiology from the University of NSW and a BD from the Melbourne College of Divinity.

His interests include Christian Formation, liturgical innovation, the interaction between science and religion, and Narrative Theology. He is a member of a number of environmental and Human Rights organisations and has served on Anglican Social Justice Committees at both Diocesan and National level. He is a former chair of The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce.

The Very Reverend Daniel Faricy has served as the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral Rockhampton since the start of 2026. He previously spent eight years as the rector of St. James Anglican Church in Kununurra within the Diocese of Northwest Australia. Daniel holds a Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Moore Theological College. Daniel is married to Bec and has three children. In his downtime, he's a fan of squash, reading, and English detective shows.

Parish Council will meet this Thursday, 7pm in the Meeting Room.

Next Sunday 2 August there will be an All-age Family Service 10am at Holy Trinity and 5pm at Briagolong.

Also on Sunday 2 August, there will be a service to celebrate the ministry of Thelma Langshaw on her retirement at St Paul's Cathedral, 2.30pm Sunday 2 August

Other important dates – details available

- **Leon Morris Public Lecture - Ridley College and Live-streamed - 5 August – information available**
- **Ridley Annual Preachers' Conference: 'Evangelistic Preaching' - Ridley College and Live-streamed - 27-28 August**
- **Season of Creation Launch at Anglican Schools Evensong - St Paul's Cathedral Sale and Live-streamed - 23 August 5pm (2 attachments)**
- **ACTinG Season of Creation Book Club - online - 7.30pm September 1, 15 and 29**
- **Training Day for Lay Readers and interested clergy, lay Synod members, and other lay leaders - St James Traralgon - Saturday 5 September (2 attachments)**
- **The Abbey Feast - 12 September (2 attachments)**
- **NCLS Church Activities Survey with NAYBA Australia - please help shape the first ever national Faith Impact Audit**
- **Winter reading suggestions and the 2027 Anglican Church Calendar from St Peter's Book room**

Ministry Development Officer Graham Knott offers this open invitation to: -

Lay Readers and Clergy Training Day 2026 - St James Traralgon, Saturday 5 September

Our Lay Reader Seminar will be run a little differently this year - one day only in a central location.

We are so excited to be able to share information with you about the 2026 Lay Readers Training Day. We are planning to gather on Saturday 5 September 2026 at St James, Traralgon between 10:00AM and 4:00PM. There will only be one day this year, and we hope that all Diocesan Lay Readers will make attendance on the day a priority. Please arrive early so that we can get started in good time.

We are pleased to announce that our speaker on the day is The Revd Rod Morris. You will learn more about Rod in the attached brief bio. Rod is very experienced in the subject of church health and parish leadership and will have much to contribute as we plan for mission and ministry during the coming months. What Rod brings will also assist us is working with the results of the NCLS survey which the Bishop is encouraging all parishes to complete this year (at no cost, being subsidised by the Diocese).

This day will be invaluable to all Lay Readers. However, all clergy, Synod representatives and other lay leaders are also invited to take part in this special opportunity to build on some of the work we did at Synod and at Clergy Conference.

There is no charge for the day. We are grateful to Rod for supporting the ministry of Gippsland Anglicans, the Parish of Traralgon for welcoming us, our Registrar for arranging the refreshments and lunch, and to you all for making the day worthwhile by your presence and engagement.

In order to assist Rod with planning, and others with organising catering, please complete and return the attached form indicating your attendance and any dietary needs.

Please be in touch with David Perryman if you have any questions, and, of course, share this invitation with your Lay Readers, Synod members, and others.

FOGO

Has commenced in this area.

We have a 240-litre FOGO bin, plus a kitchen caddy with 200 compostable liners.



Dave has placed a larger kitchen bin beside the recycle and rubbish bins near the kitchen door, better meeting our needs for catering, Ecumenical services and Movie Nights. It may cost about \$1 per week but well worth it! The FOGO bin is collected weekly.

Looking to support us? Ways to give: - Via the offertory bags passed around during our Sunday services (sealed envelopes also available): Via bank transfer – Anglican Parish of Avon, BSB – 063526, Account number – 10493155.

- Or follow the QR code below:



READINGS AND ROSTER FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST. PENTECOST 10

Genesis 32.22-31. Romans 9.1-8 (9-16)

Matthew 14.13-21

**PIC Dave. LA Gail. Chalice Judy K. 1st Reading Denise. 2nd Bev T
Intercessions: Gail. Org: Vic. Sides: Wendy, Miriam.
Camera: Paul, PPT. Miriam. Flowers: Judy K
Morning Tea: Jenny, Theresa**

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

JULY

Thursdays. mainly music. 9.30am Parish Hall. During school term.

Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayers at Holy Trinity

Wednesdays Bible Studies during school term.

Winter school holidays Saturday 27 June to Sunday 12 July

Retiring Offertory: Aboriginal Ministry

Sun 26 Pentecost 9. Hosting Deans, preaching.

Tues 28 Dave attending the Registry Team Retreat and Organizational Review from July 28-29 at The Abbey.

Thurs 30 7pm. Parish Council Meeting

AUGUST

Thursdays. mainly music, 9.30am in the Parish Hall during School Term

Fridays. 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

Mondays 7.30pm Bible Studies

Retiring Offertory: Australian Collaboration Cambodia

**Sun 2 Pentecost10
10am All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity and 5pm at Briagolong**

Tues 4 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day. August 4 each year.

Thurs 6 Transfiguration of Jesus.

**Sun 9 Pentecost11
? Service of The Transfiguration of Jesus
4pm Healing Service
International Day of the World's Indigenous People (2014 UN).**

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