

**Easter Sunday 31st March 2024**



## **EASTER DAY**

*Commentary on John 20:1-18 by Tracy S. Malone in Upper Room Disciplines, March, 2024*

The tomb is empty! Jesus has conquered the grave! Christ is risen! These facts remain the same and the promise is true yesterday, today, and all our tomorrows. The Easter story reveals how God is always working for good in our lives and in the world, bringing light into the darkness, making hope out of despair, and turning tragedy into triumph. There is nothing impossible for God! No matter how dark, tragic, or hopeless a circumstance or situation might be, the worst day or the worst thing is never the last thing.

As Easter people we must decide every day not to shrink in fear and doubt. We must choose not to succumb to the suffering we experience and the evil and injustice that pervades the world. We must have the faith to claim Christ's resurrection power in our own lives and choose to live victoriously, embodying and proclaiming God's love, compassion, justice, peace, and hope. We do this by relying on God's endless supply of grace

and mercy and resting in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Every day we must proclaim that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ, who is our hope and salvation and through whom all things are possible. Why? Because this is a fact and a promise!

Jesus tells Mary Magdalene not to hold on to him but to go and share that she has seen him. We give witness to the power of the Resurrection by sharing testimonies of our faith in Christ and by living as Resurrection people. Who will you go and tell that Christ is risen? How will you live differently knowing you follow a resurrected saviour?

*Almighty God, help us to experience the joy of Easter today and always! May our lives be a testimony to your power and love. Amen.*

### **'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'**

**Vicar:** Reverend Shirley Littras

Rev'd Shirley's mobile: **0422 567 072**

Rev'd Shirley's Email: [littras@optusnet.com.au](mailto:littras@optusnet.com.au)

Reverend Elizabeth Bufton Healing Ministry Co-Ordinator

Rev'd Elizabeth's mobile: **0437 524 865**

Rev'd Elizabeth's Email: [staughtonvale@bigpond.com](mailto:staughtonvale@bigpond.com)

St Stephen's Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: (03) **52432557**

Web: [www.ststephensbelmont.org.au](http://www.ststephensbelmont.org.au)

Email: [ststephensang2@iinet.net.au](mailto:ststephensang2@iinet.net.au)

*The church office is open from 9am to 5pm each week on Wednesday and Thursday*



**Sentence:** This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Luke 24.34; Psalm 118.24

**Collect:** Brightness of God's glory, whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison: as you have shared our frailty in human flesh, help us to share your immortality in the Spirit; let no shadow of the grave terrify us, and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days, as the First and the Last, the Living One, our immortal Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings** Acts 10.34-43, Psalm 118.1-2; 118.14-24, Philippians 2.5-, Mark 14.1-15.27

pray for those in

## need

- Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rev Liz Bufton, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, George Littras, Keith Grigg, Yvonne Fyfe, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durrant, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, John and Lyn Hilcke, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Del, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling., Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Mason Wood
- For the Dying and their Support Services.

pray for the

## wider church

- For the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne
- For the Oodthenong Episcopal Area Bishop (The Rt Dr Brad Billings).
- For the Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Stephen Pollard).
- For the Incumbency committee of St Paul's Geelong as they continue to search for a new priest.

Pray for the

## World

- For peace and prosperity for all nations in

political turmoil around the world.

- For countries experiencing natural disasters.
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan as they face an uncertain future.
- For a peaceful solution to be found for the war between Israel and Gaza. For all who have lost loved ones and their homes.
- Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients.
- For WellSpring Initiative for finances and the leadership team

pray for the

## Community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past, present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, for reconciliation and for treaty.
- For those without influence who don't yet know Jesus.
- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For those in financial difficulty due to rental and mortgage rate increases and the cost of providing for their families.
- For all who suffered the loss of their homes, livestock and fences during the cyclone, fires and floods on recently.

Cont'd from page 2

Pray for

## Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George.
- For Reverend Elizabeth Bufton and Peter as she builds up her strength for the coming treatment.
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for all St Stephen's parishioners.
- For the Eucharist Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For all parishioners as they prayerfully travel the pathway of Lent seeking God's guidance for their lives.
- For the Bartus family and for Claire Burrows as they prepare to bring Armani and Harry for Baptism on Easter Sunday.

## Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth  
to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give,  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in  
numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our  
local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**Turn off  
all mobile  
phones**



## 2024 Pascal Candle

Once again Mary-Jane Walker has created a very beautiful Pascal Candle.

Mary based the image on our stained glass window which was designed by Australian artist Robert Clarke of Berwick in 1980.

As an artist whose own work is inspired by the natural world, Clarke's depiction of a blade of grass as seen under a microscope is inspirational.

"It seemed fitting to link this year's candle design to the re-examination of your amazing window in our contemporary time and the context of our own environment as well as the challenge we face in respecting our living Earth and how it perfectly shows the spirit of this year's reading moving through all living things."

Dr Mary-Jane Walker

31st March, 2024

## GEELONG HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY FUND

To financially support Rev'd Sheridan Hannan in her position as Geelong Hospital Chaplain, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation has opened a Geelong Hospital Chaplaincy Fund bank account.

At present, Rev'd Hannah works for one day a week. With support from the Anglican Parishes throughout Geelong, we pray that more days will be allotted.

To support this extremely valuable work, we have Direct Debit Request Forms available to enable us to contribute directly to the Geelong Hospital Chaplaincy Fund. Pam Osborn has the forms and, if required, can assist you in completing the them.

### \*\*\*\*\*THANK YOU\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to those who have offered to help with some of the chores that feature on the roster.

More people are still required so, if you could help please contact Jan who has been doing the Rosters for eight years and wishes to retire. This role is not gender specific so Jan would love to hear from you.

Jan Douglas Ph: 0428 621 121

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen's Belmont acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present. We also pay particular respect to Wadawurrung speaking people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these grasslands, waterways and basalt plains where our Church serves.

## CHILD SAFE PRACTICE

The Anglican Church of Australia within the Diocese of Melbourne is committed to child safe practice. The safety and the wellbeing of children and vulnerable people are embedded in policies and practices which reflect a commitment to zero tolerance of abuse.

The policies, information and resources within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne can be found on the Diocese Website: [Safe Ministry | Anglican Diocese of Melbourne \(melbourneanglican.org.au\)](https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au)

### Kooyoora Support Services

Ph 1800 135 246

Kids Helpline Ph: 1800 551 800

### Centre against Sexual Assault

Ph: 1800 806 292

Victims of Crime Ph: 1800 819 817

**ALPHA STARTS ON 14th APRIL**  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT: Sandy Whitcroft:**  
**Ph: 0402 499 135**

## Prayer Ministry

A special meeting on 18th April to meet with

Rev'd Brendan McDonald the Vicar of St Paul's Caulfield North.

RSVP Liz 0437 524 865 or

Shirley 0422 567 072

*If you are last to leave the Church, the Hall or the Meeting Room, please turn off the heaters and lights. Check that ALL doors are locked.*

31st March 2024

# *He is Risen*



Messy Church 25th March



31st March 2024

## We are on 'Zoom' every Sunday.

Here is our Zoom link for people to access our 9:30 am service if they are not able to attend live church. It will be the same Link, Meeting ID and Passcode information

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86484911358?pwd=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3VYUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 84911358

Passcode: 379683

## What's Coming Up?

### Playgroup

Recommences after the term break

### Meditation Group

Recommences after the term break

### Prayer Group

Thursday 11am in the meeting room

### House Groups

#### Monday Afternoon

1/15 Patern St, Highton 2.30pm

Ph 5243 1095

#### Wednesday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

### Highway to Healing Service

Monday 13th April 7pm

### Alpha

Sunday 14th April, 11.30am in the hall

### Wardens Meeting

Tuesday 9th April 7pm

### Parish Council

Tuesday 16th April 7pm

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday 20th April 8am in the hall

### Reimagining the Future

Kristina Kettleton from the Diocese

22 April 9.30 in the meeting room

All are welcome including members of LYCIG, and Parish Council

### LYCIG

22nd May, 7pm in the office.

## Parish Contacts

### Vicar

Rev'd Shirley Littras

Church Office: **5243 2557**

Mob: **0422 567 072**

Email: [littras@optusnet.com.au](mailto:littras@optusnet.com.au)

St Stephen's email address.

[ststephensang2@iinet.net.au](mailto:ststephensang2@iinet.net.au)



### Vicar's Warden

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

### Church Warden

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

### Parish Treasurer

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

### Prayer Ministry

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

### Kid's Church

Anne Henderson **5243 6699**

### Playgroup

Pam Osborn **0425 729 163**

### Music Ministry

Tim Rowlands **0438 412 000**

### Men's Breakfast

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

### Girls' Night Out

Jane Moloney **0439 419 694**

### Rosters

Jan Douglas **0428 621 121**

### Child Safety officer and

### Family Safety champion

Cassie Calder **0448 024 951**

### Link Editor & Advertising

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

### Key Ministry Co-ordinators Families

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

### Pastoral Care

Helen McLean **0408 025 204**

## Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 4: 32-37

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31