

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=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3VYU09>
Meeting ID: 864 8491 1358 Passcode: 379683
Passcode: 379683

Men's Breakfast Saturday 25th March, 2023

Men's Breakfast will be held at Narana Café in the Narane Aboriginal Cultural Centre,
410 Surf Coast Hwy,
Grovedale,
Commencing at 8am. Cost \$15 per person,
This covers a full cooked breakfast.

If you are able to come along you will enjoy great conversation and fellowship, good food, and coffee, please contact

Max Osborn
Mobile 0413 591 769

Parish Contacts

Vicar Rev'd Shirley Littras
5243 2557

Mob: 0422567072

Email: littras@optusnet.com.au

St Stephen's email address.

ststephensang2@bigpond.com

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 19 694**

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

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Ps 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-13 (14-16)

Matthew 5:13-20



SUNDAY 19th March 2023



SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Commentary on John 9:24-41 by Mandy Sayers Upper Room Disciplines January 2023

This story appears to be about a man born blind and the Pharisees who can see just fine. However, we discover that the man who physically cannot see has more insight than these scholars who could perfectly read an eye chart.

The Pharisees believe the man's infirmity is caused by someone's sin, the man's or his parents', which Jesus dismisses as a misunderstanding of how God works. The Pharisees believe that making mud on the sabbath day makes Jesus a sinner, but the newly sighted man reminds them that God listens to Jesus, so he must not be a sinner.

The Pharisees cannot see who Jesus really is or appreciate his mission. They are the blind ones. The man born blind can see just fine, both physically and spiritually, after his healing. He testifies to Jesus' identity and comes to faith. His responses in the debate with the Pharisees show he has more insight about Jesus than they do. Jesus tells the

Pharisees that being sure you are not a sinner may be evidence that you are one. "Now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

This Lent, we have the opportunity to give our spiritual blindness to Christ, to ask him to heal it, and to participate in that healing through our spiritual discipline, our obedience, and our faith in who Christ is. What are some blind spots you need Jesus to heal?

Lord, forgive us for the times we think our vision is better than yours. Touch our hearts and lives today to help us see more clearly who you are. Help us to see one another more clearly as brothers and sisters. Send us to the world's broken and blind places and situations with your loving light and a testimony about Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras **5243 2557**

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Rev'd Shirley's Email: 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

St Stephen's Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: (03)5243 2557

Web: www.ststephensbelmont.org.au

Email: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au

Rev Shirley will be in the Parish on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday morning and Sunday morning.



Today's Service: Fourth Sunday in Lent 19th March , 2023

Sentence: 'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.' John 8.12

Collect: Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, ho is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings I Samuel 16.1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9.1-41

pray for those in

need

- *Max Osborn, Keith Grigg, Yvonne Fyfe, Pam Burrows, Mary and Arthur; Jim and Joy Duran, Fiona, June Cook, Jack & Carmel Laherty, John and Lyn Hilcke, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Charlotte MacEndry, Shirley Dougherty, Del, Dawn Tait and for Dawn's sister Coral, Bernard Conradie and André, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling,. Marie Kershaw, Robert Dodds,*
- *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 Revd Kate Prowd).*
- *For the Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).*
- *For the vacant Parishes with the Geelong area that are seeking new incumbents.*

pray for the

World

- *For peace and prosperity for all nations in*

- *famine, drought and violent windstorms. political turmoil around the world: floods, earthquakes,*
- *For those suffering from natural disasters*
- *For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine and an immediate cessation of fighting, for safety and care for those fleeing the terror and for success of 'peace talks.*
- *For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine as they face an uncertain future.*
- *For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and the Delta, Omicron and all the other variants, all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease.*
- *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 all students in all the schools in the Geelong area and their teachers as they begin he*

pray for

our church

- For our Priest-in-charge: Reverend Shirley
- Littras and George, and for Reverend Elizabeth Bufton
- Please pray for the Parish council
- Please pray For all St Stephen's Parishioners.
- For our Eucharistic Assistants.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the resources to enable Christ's mission.

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

21st March 9.30am in the hall

Meditation Group

16th March 10am in the meeting room

Prayer Group

16th March 11am in the meeting room

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

1/15 Patern St, Highton 2.25pm

Ph 5243 1095

Wednesday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont

Ph 0421 017 882

Thursday Evening

1/57 Regent St, Belmont 7pm

Ph 0402 499 135

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 11th April, 2023. 7:00 pm

Parish Council

21st March, 7pm in the meeting room

Men's Breakfast

See the notice on the insert.

Daily Readings W/C 20th—25th March

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God,

in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Monday March 20th

Morning

Ps 48 or Ps 25, Exodus 1, Luke 18: 1-14

Evening

Ps 49, Jeremiah 36: 1-19, Hebrews 12:1-11

Tuesday 21st March

Morning

Ps 50, Exodus 2, Luke 18: 15-30

Evening

Ps 119: 41-64, Jeremiah 36:20-32, Hebrews 12:12-24

Wednesday 22nd March

Morning

Ps 51 or Ps 90, Exodus 3, Luke 18:31-43

Evening

Pss 52; 53, Jeremiah 37, Hebrews 12:25-29

Thursday

Morning 23rd March

Ps 54; 55:1-12, Exodus 4:1-26, Luke 19:1-10

Evening

Ps 55:13-15:28, Jeremiah 38:1-13, Hebrews 13:1-6

Friday 24th March

Morning

Ps 56; 57, Exodus 4:27-6:1, Luke 19:11-27

Evening

Ps 60; 61, Jeremiah 38:14-28, Hebrews 13:7-17

Saturday 25th March

Morning

Pss 62; 63, Exodus 6:2-13: 6:28-7:7, Luke 19:28-48

Evening

Pss 64;67 or Ps 31., Jeremiah 39, Hebrews 13:18-25



Turn off
all mobile
phones

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

We're inviting you to pray for five!

Pray for five

Praying for five people is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. There are so many creative ways to do this. You could write down the names of the 5 people you're praying for on your phone, on your mirror or on a little card as a reminder to pray for them throughout the day.

You could use a band and tie 5 knots, each one representing your 5 or maybe each time you drink a cup of tea or coffee, you could remember to pray for them. Or perhaps you could pray during your daily exercise such as running or walking – holding one person each day in prayer then praying for them all collectively on the last day. Or you could try the 555 prayer challenge which is



YOUTH CHURCH

This is a forward notice to announce the commencement of Youth church.

Leader: Jane Moloney
When: Second term this year
Where: St Stephen's
Time: 9.30am

The youth church program will be intergenerational but aimed particularly to teenagers from the church. It will be a time of teaching, worship and fun.

Lent and Good Friday & Easter Appeal

Your support for the **Lent and Good Friday Appeal** will help many vulnerable women in Gaza and improve the nutrition of their children via the wonderful work of the Ahli Hospital. It will also empower young Anglican Palestinians learn more about their Christian heritage.

Donations

Online:

www.abmission.com/Lent2023

Bank Transfer:

Account Name:

Anglicans in Development Ltd

BSB 032 135

Account Number 691271

Reference: Name & Donor ID (if known)

Supporting the **Easter Appeal** will be used to support the Coming of the Light in the Torres Strait. Specifically the work of the Meriba Maygi Zageth Anglican Council and the key missional work of the Melanesian Brothers in both North Queensland and the Torres Strait.

Donations:

Online:

www.abmission.com/Easter2023

Bank Transfer:

Account Name:

Anglican Board of Mission Ltd

BSB: 032 008

Account Number: 130754

Reference : Name and Donor (if known)

Cheque/Money Order: (for both)

Made out to: Anglicans in Development Ltd

Address: Anglican Board of Mission
Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria
Building, NSW 1230 Australia

Free Family Fun Day

The leadership of the church wish to offer our sincere thanks to Cassie Calder for her marathon effort in once again organising the Fun Day.

Many thank to the Lions Club who Cooked and provided everything for the BBQ.

Thank you also to everyone who brought goods to display in the church, and to those who demonstrated their skills in the hall.

Thanks also to the volunteers who manned the jumping castle, made donuts, and fairy floss and all the ladies who served tea and coffee throughout the day.

The Free Family Fun Day is a wonderful event and a terrific outreach to our local community.

