



## THE MIRACLE OF ABUNDANCE

*Commentary on John 6:1-13 by Jay Horton in Disciplines, Upper Room, July, 2024*

In this chapter of the fourth Gospel, Jesus reveals just how far the generosity of God extends. When Jesus and the disciples encounter a large crowd, Jesus sees an opportunity to facilitate a teaching moment. He challenges his disciples to come up with a solution, knowing (the scripture says) what he intends to do, no matter their response. Philip deems it an impossible task, but Andrew, if also defeated, at least acknowledges the presence of potential in the boy's five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus sees this as ample. He gives thanks to God, multiplies the food, and feeds the five thousand. Where the disciples see resources lacking, Christ sees abundance.

Several years ago, the inner-city church where I work saw a need. People in the area were desperate for affordable housing. Several community members, in fact, had died on the front steps of our church from lack of adequate shelter. The members knew something needed to be done to fix this issue, but such an enormous

task seemed impossible. Money was not flush and membership had dwindled, but they had some valuable land and a hearty faith. So, the few gathered, prayed, got creative and resourceful, and five years later saw the rise of a 320-unit affordable, work-live-play complex in the heart of downtown Atlanta. It provided not just shelter but education for the underhoused and disadvantaged.

Even when we think our resources are minuscule and inconsequential, Jesus reminds us that, with God, they are more than enough. Our God is a God of abundance. God takes what little we have, blesses it, and multiplies our gifts for the redemption of the world.

*Provider God, help us to remember that with you nothing is impossible. Thank you for turning what little gifts we offer into holy miracles. Amen*

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

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



**Sentence:** 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven,' says the Lord. 'Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' John 6.51

**Collect:** Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth: grant that, believing in the one whom you have sent, we may know him to be the true bread of heaven and the food of eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and honour for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings** 2 Samuel 11.1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3.14-21, John 6.1-21

### **pray for those in need**

- *Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Peter Bufton, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, George Littras, Keith Grigg, Yvonne Fyfe, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durran, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Lyn Hilcke, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Del, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, Carolyn Melling,. Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Lorraine Bignoux, Dale Price, & Mavis Palmer.*
- *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 Albans North Geelong as they seek a new Priest .*

Pray for 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 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 families struggling with the cost of heating their homes and those living in their cars or in the open in whatever shelter they can find.*

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Pray for

## Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George.
- 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.
- Please pray for Shay & Zoe Noble, and Andrea Hartley as they begin studies to prepare for confirmation on 18th August.
- Pray also for Jen Zdravkovski who has been appointed as Authorised Lay Minister and will be commissioned on 18th August by Bishop Brad Billings.

## 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 spiritual commitment to you,  
in numbers,

And in service to our

local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## DULCIE BOTTRELL

Dulcie was a long time member of St Stephen's and is remembered with love and admiration by all who knew her.

Dulcie is now in the arms of her beloved Jesus.

Her funeral will be held next Wednesday 31st July at 10am, here at St Stephen's.

## GEELONG HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY FUND

If you would like 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 them.

Pam: 0425 729 163



**Turn off  
all mobile  
phones**

*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.*

## *The Children's Area*

The special space that has been set aside for the children during worship has been moved to the northern section of Chapel. This is for a trial period and will be discussed further in Parish Council

## Parishioners

When the time comes, it is important for families to know your wishes with regard to where you wish to have your funeral.

At St Stephen's or elsewhere?  
Also which cemetery would be your preference.

Although this conversation could be awkward, it is an important discussion to have with your family, before the time comes.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Congratulations are extended to  
Andrea Hartley and Shay and Zoe Noble.

Who have asked to be confirmed into the Anglican Communion here at St Stephen's.

We wish them every success as they attend the confirmation classes each Thursday evening at 5pm in the church office.

## **AUTHORISED LAY MINISTRY**

Congratulations to Jennifer Amy Zdravkovski  
Jen has been appointed as Authorised Lay Minister and will be commissioned on 18th August by Bishop Brad Billings at the 9.30 service

## 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.

## Geelong Refugee Assistance Program (G-RAP)

As many of you are aware G-RAP has been welcoming new refugee families to its monthly distribution of material aid at Corio. We have new families arriving to the local area and following last month's distribution, there is an urgent need for good quality linen, towels & kitchen items for next month. The tables were left bare at the last distribution!

The next set up/sorting date is Friday 2nd August between 1-2.30pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Corio.

If you would like to donate Items they can either be left in the East room at the Church, or please connect with Jan – 0428 621 121

Further dates for set up/sorting:

Friday 6th September    Friday 4th October  
Friday 1st November    Friday 6th December

Thank you for your support.

## 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=eDdUa1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3YYUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8491 1358

Passcode: 379683

## What's Coming Up?

### Playgroup

Tuesday, 9.30am in the Hall

### Meditation Group

Thursday, 10am in the meeting room

### 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

12th August, 7pm

### Wardens Meeting

13th August 7pm in the meeting room

### Parish Council

20th August 7pm in the meeting room

### Messy Church

25th August

### Youth Church

11th August, 9.30 am

### Bishop Brad Billings Visit

18th August, 9.30 am service

### Confirmation service

18th August, 9.30 am service

### Commissioning service

Jen Zdravkovski as Authorised Lay Minister 18th August 9.30am service

## Parish Contacts

### Vicar

Rev'd Shirley Littras

Church Office: **5243 2557**

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*St Stephen's email address.*

*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

## Readings for Next Sunday

2 Samuel 11:26-12, 13a

Psalms 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35