



POWER TO TRANSFORM

Commentary on Galatians 5:1, 13-25 by Kira Austin Young. Disciplines in Upper Room, June 2025

As followers of Christ, Paul encourages us to live according to the Spirit rather than according to the self that is under the power of sin, the flesh. In his list of works of the flesh, we might be most familiar with the ones that require a certain kind of purity like “idolatry” and “drunkenness,” but notably, a good portion of them involve life in community and how the works of the flesh lead to unhealthy conflict and disordered relationships with one another. Both the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit occur not only on the individual level but in communal life.

Once again, I am sympathetic to the Galatians who are so excited about the Christian message that they want a tangible public marker of their faith journey in circumcision and table practises to demonstrate their piety and discipleship. As opposed to choosing a big gesture and one-time act like circumcision, the work of the Spirit is a slower process. Being transformed by the Spirit is a

process that leads us to be more loving, kind, joyful, and peaceful. Unlike circumcision or table practises, the development of the fruit of the Spirit take time and are not always readily visible.

The work of discipleship is the work of being transformed, not through trying harder or following more rules but by leaning into God’s power of grace and love so that the fruit of the Spirit become evident in our lives and our communities. When we bear one another’s burdens, when we love one another as Christ loves us, we are living out the transformative power of the Spirit that is given to us in baptism. The Spirit is at work in each and every one of us, helping us to walk in the footsteps of Christ and fulfil the commandments to love one another.

Loving Spirit, by our power transform us so that our lives may show forth your fruit.

Amen

‘GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL’

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Sentence: Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it. Matthew 10.39

Collect: O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, the strength of the thoughts that seek you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings

2 Kings 2.1-2; 2.6-14, Psalm 77.1-2; 77.11-20, Galatians 5.1; 5.13-25, Luke 9:51-62

pray for those in

Need

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, 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, Robert Dodds, & Anne & Richard McCullough, Tristan Durden & Allegra Daly, Lorraine Bignoux, Mavis Palmer, Dale Price, Judith Kus & Joan Ham
- 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 the new Archbishop Rick Thorpe 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 all world leaders during this time of stress and turmoil.
- For countries experiencing natural disasters: particularly those in our own country trying to recover from the devastating floods.
- For a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine.
- For the conflict between Israel and Iran
- For the Hamas to release all the remaining prisoners.
- For the countries involved in bringing a peaceful resolution between Israel and Hezbollah
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and for the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, 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.

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- For those God is calling to come to know Him
- For families struggling with the cost of living and financial difficulty due to rental and mortgage rate increases

Pray for

Our Church

- For our Vicar: Reverend Shirley Littras and George
- For Jen Zradovkovski, Josh and Eloise.
- For Lwe Moo San Tay and her family during her time with us
- Please pray for the Wardens and Parish Council.
- Please pray for LyCig and Parish Council as they plan for 2025
- 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.

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 spir-
itual commitment to you, in
numbers,
And in service to our
local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



**Turn off
all mobile
phones**

Pot Luck Lunch

Today following morning tea.

Please come and after lunch there will be a time of discussion about the ongoing strategy of the parish.

There is written information available at the back of the church so you will be informed what the LyCig cockpit crew has been planning.

What's Coming Up?

Playgroup

Tuesday 9.30 in the hall

Meditation Group

Thursday, 10am in the meeting room

Prayer Group

Thursday 11am in the meeting room

House Groups

Monday Afternoon

29 Jacobs St, Belmont 2.30pm

Ph 5243 1835

Thursday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

Highway to Healing Service

Monday 14th July 7pm

Ladies Afternoon Tea

7th July 1.30-3.30pm in the meeting room

Warden's Meeting

Tuesday 8th July 7pm

Parish Council

Tuesday 15th July 7pm

LyCig

16th July 7pm in the meeting room

Kids & Youth Church

Every Sunday, 9.30 am for primary and

10th August, 9.30 am for Youth Church

Wellspring Fashion Parade

Saturday 19th July, in the Hall

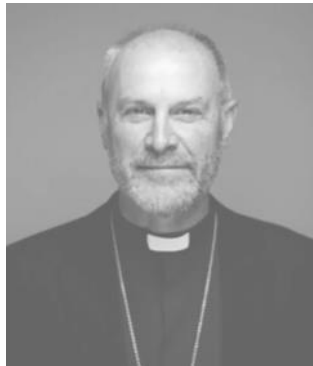
\$10 per ticket, proceeds to Wellspring

All the clothes will be for sale.

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 New Archbishop of Melbourne

The Right Reverend Dr Ric Thorpe



The Archbishop-elect currently serves in a special episcopal role as Bishop of Islington in the Diocese of London. This encompasses diocesan, national and international responsibilities, held together within the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication with a focus on church planting.

Ordained in the Diocese of London, Bishop Thorpe did his undergraduate theological studies at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University and his doctorate through Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky United States.

Bishop Thorpe has visited Melbourne often and said, “We have come to love Melbourne over the years, as we have served and ministered in the diocese, in other denominations, and across the nation.”

His passion was, “Seeing the whole Church of God thrive, enabling churches to be healthy, new congregations planted, and struggling churches revitalised.” Chair of the Board of Nominators, Dr Jenny George, described the Archbishop-elect as “an experienced and visionary leader.”

“Ric has been personally involved in revitalising small or shrinking parishes and planting new churches,” Dr George said.

“His commitment to developing future leaders is seen in his local and global training of church planters and other leaders.”

He will succeed Archbishop Philip Freier who retired in February after serving 18 years in office, once internal processes to confirm his election have been completed.

Bishop Thorpe will be installed as archbishop in St Paul’s Cathedral later in the year at a date to be advised. Bishop Blackwell will continue to serve as administrator until that time.

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=eDdUaU1ZsQmpoQ0wxZlJvc0pZS3VYUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 84911358

Passcode: 379683

Upcoming

Ladies Afternoon Tea

7th July

Between 1.30pm—3.00pm

*In the warmth of the
meeting room.*

A PRAYER FOR CHOOSING A NEW INCUMBENT

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Send your Holy Spirit to give those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Readings for Next Sunday

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

Galatians 6:7-18

Luke 10:1-2, 17-24

Parish Contacts

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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 Afternoon Tea

Max Osborn **5243 4122**

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