



## SUSTAINABLE LIFE GIVING WATER

*Commentary on Jeremiah 2:13 by Bonface Ghero Wanyama. Disciplines, in Upper Room, August 2025*

Jeremiah uses the metaphor of water to show that the people have turned away from God. Water symbolises salvation, life, and blessings. The people are misguided not only by turning from God, the source of living water, but by turning toward other gods that will not provide the care they so desperately need. They have built for themselves sources of water that are not sustainable. They will find no water in broken cisterns.

By naming two evils, “sins”, Jeremiah highlights that leaving God and the subsequent attachment to other gods are separate sins, just as the first two commandments—to have no other gods and to not make idols—are two separate transgressions against God (see Exod. 20:3-4). The metaphor of the water is apt in describing the Israelites’ covenant-breaking actions. Not only have they turned away from a constantly renewed source of fresh water, they have also turned toward vessels of water that can only hold existing water, indicating the

water will become stagnant and undrinkable. Furthermore, these cisterns are broken, meaning they will not even effectively hold the stagnant water they contain, as what water does exist will seep through the cracks and disappear into the ground.

Our choice to ignore the ways of God, who is the source of all our needs, leaves us vulnerable. Our efforts are fruitless if we do not involve God. And when we stop focusing on God, something else will fill the void. We will shift our focus to other gods that will not provide the provisions we seek. We will attempt to fashion a new way of life for ourselves apart from God. It is only a matter of time before we understand the limits of the broken cisterns we have built for ourselves, and the ways we are left thirsting for more.

*I am vulnerable, O God, living in a dry land.  
Turn me back to you, the fountain of living water, that I may drink deeply and live fully.  
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)

**Authorised Lay Minister:** Jennifer Zdravkovski

Jennifer’s Email: [jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au)

**Student Placement:** Lwe Moo San Tay

Email: [lwemoo@hotmail.com](mailto:lwemoo@hotmail.com)

St Stephen’s Church: 42 Regent St. Belmont VIC 3216 Phone: 5243 2557

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

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



**Today's Service TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**31st August 2025**

**Sentence:** All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Luke 14.11

**Collect:** O God, you invite the humble and the sinful to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant: teach your Church always to honour the presence of the Lord in the poor and the outcast, so that we may learn to recognise each other as brothers and sisters gathered together around your table. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Readings** Jeremiah 2.4-13, Psalm 81.1,10-16, Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16, Luke 14.1,7-14

pray for those in

## **Need**

- Peter Bufton, Jessica Roach, Mary and Arthur, Rosemary Inglis, Max Osborn, George Littras, Keith Grigg, Pam Burrows, Tim and Dianne, Jim and Joy Durrant, Fiona, Carmel Laherty, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Wilf Seed, Dawn, Bernard Conradie and André, Debra Conradie, Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan, 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.
- That the cease fire between Thailand and Cambodia will continue to hold.
- 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 families struggling with the cost of living and difficulty due to rental and mortgages.
- increases Cont'd on Page 5

Cont'd from page 2

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.

*The Church Directory is available today and is found at the rear of the church*

### 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 num-  
bers,  
And in service to our  
local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**Turn off  
all mobile  
phones**

## PRAYER LIST ON PAGE 2

Please check and if your name is listed  
and decide if you still wish to be  
included.

### 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

29 Jacobs St, Belmont 2.15pm

Ph 5243 1835

##### Thursday Afternoon

41 Kidman Avenue, Belmont 1.30pm

Ph 0421 017 882

#### Highway to Healing Service

Monday 8th September 7pm

#### Warden's Meeting

Tuesday 10th September 7pm

#### Parish Council

Tuesday 16th September 7pm

#### LyCi g

15th October 7pm in the meeting room

#### Kids Church

Primary every Sunday, 9.30 am

Youth Church 14th September, 9.30 am

#### Ladies Afternoon Tea

1st Sep 1.30-3.00pm in the meeting room

#### Pastoral Care

Thursday 11th September 12 noon

training for Home Communion

#### Working Bee

6th September 8.30am—12

#### Games Afternoon

Saturday 13th September, in the Hall

*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.*





## PARISH COUNCIL

- Working Bee 6th September 8.30/9-12. Fence removal, mulch spreading, maybe sanding and beading on the north wall.
- Pastoral Care  
Rice Village has enquired regarding a service . Yvonne has offered to do the service. Pastoral Care meetings will go to monthly meetings to keep track with care for our parishioners. Training for Home Communion will be on 11th September.
- Brett Gear will continue to look into having a men's shed
- Colin Sharp will organise a men's night out in the future at the Valley Inn.

## WORKING BEE

Next Saturday, 6th September  
8.30/9-12

Much of the work will be tidying up the outdoor areas but if we have enough helpers, other jobs will be found.

Morning tea will be available  
We look forward too seeing you there as

*Many hands make light work*



## *Games Afternoon*

This is an outreach to anyone who would like to come, to enjoy having some fun with games. This isn't just for church members, so if you know anyone who enjoys cards, or board games, and is free on the 13th September, please invite them to come and share a few hours in the warmth of the hall, and good company.

Tea and coffee will be provided along with nibbles throughout the afternoon.

**This is a free afternoon activity for our members and the wider com-**

## How Many Days Until Christmas ?

116

This is a forward notice and also a request for help.

As you know every year Messy Church is an outdoor Christmas service.

This year we want to feature our many talented young people.

If you play an instrument, whether a tambourine or drums, a piccolo or a guitar, a violin or a trombone. Please consider helping this year to very special by offering your talent for our very own Christmas Youth Orchestra.

Please contact: Jen 0408 389 159 or Alyce 0437 746 068

## MUSIC AT THE BASILICA

Friday October 3, 7.30pm

St Mary's of the Angels

136 Yarra St, Geelong

THE SADDEST SOUND

THE SWEETEST SOUND

Vox Angelica Geelong Chamber Choir.

Tickets \$35/\$30

[www.trybooking.com/CXQMB](http://www.trybooking.com/CXQMB)

Saturday October 4th

St Paul's Anglican Church

LaTrobe Terrace, Geelong

MUSIC FOR A MIXED TASTE

Sonatas and Partitas for Flute and Harp-  
sichord

Greg Dikmans—Flute

David MacFarlane—Harp-sichord

Tickets \$30

[www.trybooking.com/DBRKE](http://www.trybooking.com/DBRKE)

Sunday October 5, 3pm

St Joseph's Performing Arts

Centre

E FLAT MAJOR THROUGH  
CENTURIES

Trio Oceanique Olivier Bonnici –violin,

Jenny Ingram –viola Siobhan O'Shaugh-

nessy –cello Sonoka Miyake –piano

Tickets \$30 from

[www.trybooking.com/DBRKG](http://www.trybooking.com/DBRKG)

Sunday October 12, 4pm

St Marys of the Angels

AXES IN CONCERT

Shannon Ebeling, Niels Bijl,

Sara Beale & Michael Lichnovsky

Tickets \$30

[www.trybooking.com/DBRKJ](http://www.trybooking.com/DBRKJ)

*Children and school  
Students have free  
admission to all  
Festival concerts.*

## MUSIC AT THE BASILICA

Friday October 10, 7.30pm

Basilica of St Mary of the Angels

THEN NOW

An immersion of soul and space, from  
12th century chant to recent Australian  
works

Miranda Brockman - cello

Vicki Hallett - clarinet

Tom Healey—violin

Brighid Mantelli—flute

Laura De Rosso—organ

Tickets \$30

[www.trybooking.com/DBRKI](http://www.trybooking.com/DBRKI)

Saturday October 11, 3pm

St Mary of the Angels,

136 Yarra St, Geelong

FRENCH CLASSICS

The Australian Boys Choir

Tickets \$30 from

[www.trybooking.com/CXPDG](http://www.trybooking.com/CXPDG)

## FREE EVENTS

At St Mary of the Angels

136 Yarra St. Geelong

Original poetry from local poets accom-  
panied by music

Monday October 6, 5-5.30pm

Rosemary Blake—poetry

Frank De Rosso-organ/piano

Tuesday October 7, 5-5.30pm

John Bartlett—poetry

Prue Farnsworth –flute

Wednesday October 8, 5.530pm

Julie MacLean –poetry

Julian Cornish –guitar

Thursday October 9 5-5.30pm

Heather Cameron –poetry

Myra McRae –und bowls

Friday October, 5-530pm

Helen Seymour –poetry

Gillian Turner –harp

## 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



### 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 7th September

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-5, 12-18

Philemon 1-25

Luke 14:25-35

## 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)

**Authorised Lay Minister**

Jennifer Zdravkovski

Email:

[jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:jzdravkovski@melbourneanglican.org.au)

Jen is in the Church Office on Thursday

**Student Placement**

Lwe Moo San Tay

Email: [lwemoo@hotmail.com](mailto:lwemoo@hotmail.com)

**Vicar's Warden**

Brett Gear **0418 717 141**

**Church Warden**

Peter Bufton **0448 694 204**

Tim Rowlands **0439 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 Afternoon Tea**

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**

**& Ladies Afternoon Tea**

Yvonne Fyfe **5243 7183**

**Pastoral Care**

Jennifer Zdravkovski **0408389159**

