

# Anam Cara Community



## *Waterholes: 27 May 2017*



Mt Sturgeon. Photo Ross Byrne

## Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 28th May 2017.

**Why this newsletter?** This newsletter is one of the ways by which we hope to promote community. The Anam Cara Community is intended to be much more than simply a group of likeminded people. We hope it will continue to grow into a community that is a sign of God's presence in and love for the world, a dispersed community of contemplatives whose lives and action bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We are a Community of Prayer, and believe that as we pray together, God calls us deeper into fellowship with one another.

**Who is welcome?** The Anam Cara Community is proud to welcome anyone, from any background or faith community (or none!). We are an open and inclusive community that affirms the dignity and worth of all humans, the value of the environment, and seeks to model a way of living with one another and the world that points to the love and care of God for everyone. Individuals who wish to formally join the Community are welcome to become associates.

# Community News

## Library News

There are changes to the Community's library catalogue!

Amongst the recent additions are a number of interesting books and two audio books by Stephanie Dowrick.

The updated library catalogue is available to view on our website <http://.www.anamcaragippsland.org>

Books may be borrowed at any of our Quiet Days, at the annual Thanksgiving Service, or by application to the Community librarian Sue 5182 5542.

This is a great resource and it just got even better!

## Website

The Servant Leadership have been working to update some parts of the website. Thank you to associate Karena King who has been making the changes for us.

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## Coming Events

**Dates for your diary:**

### 1. Winter Quiet Day - 22nd July

Reflection to be led by: **The Rev'd Dean Spalding**

St Mary's Morwell

### 2. Gippsland Diocesan Retreat - The Abbey of St Barnabas

**Winter Earth and Pomegranates**

Led by: **The Rev'd Susanna Pain**

5pm Friday 11th August - 3.30pm Saturday 12th August

**NOTE:** Further events that may be of interest follow the reflections at the end of this newsletter...

## For your prayers

Part of the joy of the Anam Cara Community is the gift of being called to pray for others. If you would like the Community to pray for you, or for someone else, please email or call Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or [jemacqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemacqueen@gmail.com)) who will add them to the prayer list, and ensure they are included in our roster of prayers.

At present, your prayers are asked for:

- Bishop Kay in her ministry and leadership.
- The registry staff, Brian, Annette, Kellie, Sue and Deacon David.
- The Servant Leaders of the Anam Cara Community who will meet for planning on 3rd June.
- Associate Val and leaders and participants in the Living Well Formation program for Spiritual Directors who will meet this coming week. For the ministry of all Spiritual Directors.
- Friends of the Cathedral gathering tomorrow - the first gathering since 2012.
- Associates and Friends who have asked for our prayers:
- Anne Turner as she settles into her new home in Canberra.
- Norma and June.
- John now receiving palliative care in the hope he will be able to go home rather than stay in hospital and his family, Grace and David.
- For all the conversations, deliberations and celebrations in this National Reconciliation Week.
- For the people of Manchester and the Coptic Christian Community in Egypt, for the suffering and the grieving.
- For all who are suffering and dying as a result of worsening drought in the Horn of Africa. For Aid agencies and relief workers.
- For peacemakers in our world. For political leaders in their discussions and decision making.
- For all refugees and asylum seekers across the globe.
- Christians who raise their voices in advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers, for a stirring in the hearts of politicians and ordinary people.

### **Prayer for Reconciliation Week - the Rev'd Bruce Boase**

Dear God of all Grace, since the beginning of time many peoples have gathered on this land. Since that time many more have gathered from all parts of the world. Gracious God many times that gathering has been in a spirit of peace but also many times in a spirit of conflict and conquest. Help us to recognise the differences Lord and to restore that spirit of peace and harmony in which all people can live. Help us now Lord to gather together in prayer and praise in your Name to reach out for your peace and see your justice done. We thank you Lord for being able to gather in our diversity. In that diversity help us to reconcile ourselves to you and to each other by this

coming together. Bless this time and what we do in the name of the one who knows us and brings us together Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

### **Prayer of the day.**

Eternal God,  
by raising Jesus from the dead you proclaimed his victory,  
and by his ascension,  
you declared him Lord of all:  
lift up our hearts to heaven,  
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

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## **Reflection**

### **The Sunday After Ascension - John 17.1-11**

The Rev'd David Head, Rector St Mary's Morwell.

The Gospel reading from John for today is the first third of what is commonly called the “High Priestly Prayer of Jesus”. It takes place just before Jesus’ arrest and torture and crucifixion. It is a long and deeply felt prayer. Importantly, it is the only one of his many prayers that is recorded in the Gospels, apart from the famous Lord’s Prayer.

Jesus main purpose in this passionate prayer is his desire, despite all that is going on around him, that he will glorify God through what will take place and that his disciples will be able to do the same. In the Dictionary of the Bible the word glorify is defined as meaning to give honour and praise, weight and importance to what is to be glorified. Why is Jesus, who has already amply demonstrated his godly power and wisdom in so many ways already, now praying in such deep urgency that his life and its meaning will be glorified? Perhaps Jesus fears that the coming shame and tragedy of his arrest and appalling way of death could ever be a sign of God’s glory. However, for the Gospel of John, the cross is the ultimate sign of glory. It is in Jesus’ death and resurrection, that his life gains the ultimate weight and importance that is then found to be eternally worthy of praise and honour. It is in his obedience to the outworking of the cross and his death and resurrection that he is in fact vindicated and glorified. This glorification changes everything for all time including the wonderful freedom of our limitless access to the Holy Spirit of God. The world shifts forever on Jesus’ ultimate glorification which brings eternal life which is already here and now, and which is exemplified in our obedience to God’s love and purpose.

In the first section of this prayer, Jesus’ whole purpose in coming as God in human form is reconfirmed. It is to make God known and to glorify God through his obedience. It is to gather

together those that God the Father has given into his care that he may teach and equip them to carry on that same ministry and so to continue to gather the people of God together in an endless, ongoing cycle of mission and ministry. Jesus continues on to pray for their protection from the world because Jesus will now be taken out of the world and will be physically leaving them. What is it in the world that the disciples need protection from? Later on, in this prayer, Jesus declares that they need to be protected from the evil one. The ruler of a non-God focused world which works in opposition to the loving healing purposes of God.

We need to think about what that means for us today? In a sense, it doesn't really matter what it meant for the disciples so much because our world and our cultural and social contexts have changed almost beyond recognition to those of Jesus' time. We do need to put away that very unhelpful mediaeval image of a creature that is red clad and horned, who breathes sulphur and fire and has an elongated pointy tail and wields a nasty sharp pitchfork. Instead, and very differently, the powers of the evil one, the dissembler are the deceitful and totally self-absorbed evil forces in our world which are often dressed up in designer clothes and smart business suits. I am sure you have either heard of or seen the famous movie called "The Devil wears Prada", which takes up precisely this theme. The evil one that Jesus wants to protect us from is the one who proclaims that a good life, a worthy life, a health-filled life is totally contingent upon money and power and success and the ownership of the best and the latest there is. We hear this deceiving one tell us that Jesus' way is weak and stupid and foolish and only for the mindless and easily manipulated. We hear him say that Jesus' way has drenched the world in bloodshed and hypocrisy and intolerance and is therefore to be scorned and discarded. We hear him say that security and meaning is not to be found in some "airy fairy", unseeable and untouchable God but in that which we can only see and touch and selfishly control and have power over.

In our daily existence, we are both constantly battered and subtly manipulated by the persuasive power and words of the one who wants us rootless and Godless. He wants us to be lacking in a sense of spirituality and of the basic good of altruistic service and care and love for others. He wants us to reject the faith reality that Jesus is totally correct! Instead, as Jesus tells us, we need the empowerment of prayer and spiritual grace to be protected against the almost overwhelming subversions of the world where God is regularly rejected and expurgated from the narrative.

We should be grateful that eternally Jesus Christ our Saviour and divine lover is constantly praying for us. Ultimately, Jesus wants to protect us from our inclination to take the easy and the pleasurable and the self-absorbed way of living our lives in ignoring and disregarding our impact on the health and well-being of the wider world. Jesus here, in this Gospel, is depicted as praying fervently for his disciples. It is an eternal and cosmic glimpse of the ongoing ministry of the risen and glorified Christ. Jesus **in this prayer is both then and now also praying for us**, seeking to empower and guide and influence our ability to live life as we each have it as well as we are able.

## Photo Reflection



Grass tree. Photo Ross Byrne

NOTE: Look closely and you will see the reflection of the grass tree on the rock... and take time to revisit the photo of Mt Sturgeon that is our 'Waterholes' photo for today... there is a reflection of Mt Sturgeon in the dam... enjoy your reflecting.

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## Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

### 1. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

Christian Meditation 7.45am - 8.15am every Wednesday

Christian Meditation is a spiritual wisdom and a practice leading from the mind to the heart. It is a way of simplicity, silence, stillness and openness to God. It can be practised by anyone, wherever you are on your life's journey. It is only necessary to begin – and to keep on beginning. Contact:

Susanna Pain [susanna.pain@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.pain@gmail.com)

This practice is in the tradition of the World Community for Christian Meditation <http://www.wccm.org/>

Evening Prayer with focus on intercession 5.15pm Mondays

**AWAKEN Spring Festival** - Speakers with ideas to stretch stimulate and nourish

**Saturday 16th September 2pm-5pm**

Robyn and Alan Cadwallader

**Body and Soul** - the conflicts and the gifts of the past

**Saturday 21st October 1.30pm - 5pm**

**The Earth is the Lord's** - Listening to God in Scripture and Creation

**Graeme Garrett and Jan Morgan**

Alice Springs desert retreat for body and soul 24th - 29th September 2017

Details from Susanna Pain

## **2. The Abbey of St Barnabas**

- The Gospels Speak - Addressing Life's Questions

**The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee**

Saturday 17th June 9.30am-3.30pm

Cost \$40 including light lunch. RSVP 13th June

Phone: 5156 6580 Email: [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au). [www.theabbey.org.au](http://www.theabbey.org.au)

## **3. Meditation - the chapel of St James, Traralgon**

A group of people who are exploring the inner journey regularly meet for prayer and meditation together. We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday mornings [at 10 am](#). During the hour we spend together we share the reading of scripture, prayer and music. There is a long period of silent meditation. To sit in silence together before God helps us to recognise God in the complexities of our lives. In the depth of our being there is always a sanctuary filled with God's presence. We can go there in silence to be and to listen. All are welcome.

## **4. Bass Hill Hermitage**

**Thinking about making a silent Retreat?**

Bass Hill Hermitage is on the Bass Coast, near Phillip Island. The Hermitage has its roots in the traditions of Christian Spirituality. It is a perfect place to reflect, pray and deepen your relationship with God. Beginners, as well as experienced retreatants are welcome. They offer **directed and self-guided retreats as well as on-going Spiritual Direction and Supervision.**

The Hermitage can also be booked for a 'Quiet break' or some 'Time Out'. Visit the informative website:

[www.basshillhermitage.com.au](http://www.basshillhermitage.com.au) for more information.

## Support on the journey

The Anam Cara Community's ministry is to be a support to those who are on the inner journey into God. Each person's journey is different, and we recognise that there are some for whom the Christian tradition is difficult or not supportive. We're committed to finding ways to hear the needs of each Associate, and support them as we can.

### Contacts:

- *Website:* [www.anamcaragippsland.org](http://www.anamcaragippsland.org)
- To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the mailing list contact Jane
- *Soul carer (Community Leader):* Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or [jemacqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemacqueen@gmail.com))
- *Secretary / Librarian:* Sue [03 5182 5542](tel:0351825542)
- *Treasurer:* Kate
- *Postal mail:* Anam Cara Community c/o PO Box 928, Sale, VIC 3850
- *Diocesan Director of Professional Standards (to make complaints or express concerns about our ministries):* Ms Cheryl Russell [0407 563 313](tel:0407563313), [cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au](mailto:cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au)

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Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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