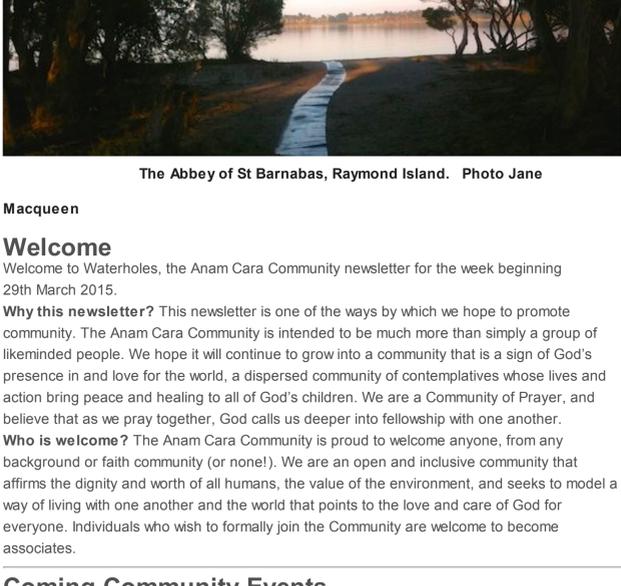




Waterholes: 28 March 2015



The Abbey of St Barnabas, Raymond Island. Photo Jane

Macqueen

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 29th March 2015.

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.

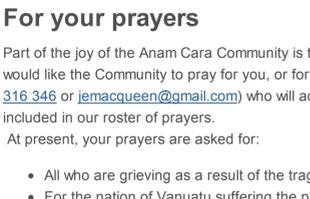
Coming Community Events

1. Quiet Day - Saturday 18th April 2015

'Growing into God - embracing the mystery'

A time to discern God's voice and call in our lives.

Led by Kate Campbell and Val Lawrence



at St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell

On

Saturday 18 April 2015 9.30am – 3.30pm

Cost Nil - \$15 depending on meals

BYO lunch: tea/coffee/provided

More information?

Contact Kate 0402 514 829 khcampbell55@gmail.com

vglawrence1@dodo.com

RSVP to Kate or Val, thank you.

2. Quiet Day - Saturday 20th June 2015

Community News

Community Library

DID YOU KNOW? that all seekers and searchers on the inner journey may borrow books from the **Anam Cara Community library**?

This is a terrific resource! There is no fee. You simply provide your name and phone number; note the book which you are borrowing; and upon return (up to 3 months) note the date upon which the book was returned.

The library, formerly housed in Sale, is now **mobile!** Books and a catalogue will be available at all of our Quiet Days for browsing or borrowing. Books may be returned at our Quiet Days or by mail to Anam Cara Community, P.O. Box 708, Sale, 3850.

The full catalogue of the books held in the library is on our website for you to browse through it. We have recently acquired a large number of new books for the library, so watch for updates to the catalogue in coming months.

Librarian, Sue Hopkins.

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) 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:

- All who are grieving as a result of the tragic plane crash in France.
- For the nation of Vanuatu suffering the profound devastation of cyclone Pam. For generous world-wide response to calls for help and relief aid for all people of Vanuatu.
- Andrew Chan, Myuran Sukumaran their families and friends as they care for each other and prepare for a very uncertain future. For the legal proceedings and those who will hear them and make decisions for both these men and other inmates who are on death row. For the efforts of all who work for mercy and an end to the capital punishment around the world.
- For all people affected by drug trafficking. For users, their families and friends. For rehabilitation programmes and professional counsellors & carers.
- All families around the world touched by tragedy as a result of the inhumane actions of others, the people of Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.
- Refugees and asylum seekers. For just and compassionate policies particularly in our own country.
- Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and her family as they settle into Bishopscourt. Bishop Kay as she prepares for Holy Week services in her cathedral.
- All priests and pastors as they prepare to lead their people through Holy Week.
- Associates who are unwell and have asked for our prayers: Barb Logan, Sue Hopkins, Kate Bristow, Norma and June.
- The family and friends of Bishop Barbara Darling in their grief.

Some of our Associates are in a place where we are privileged to offer ongoing prayers for them:

- Anne Turner as she faithfully continues her ministries of soul care and prayer and journeys with her deteriorating body.
- Larissa Dial and her family as Larissa continues to struggle with relapsed ovarian cancer and receives palliative chemo.

A number of parishes in our Diocese are seeking new incumbents. I include this prayer to encourage us in our prayers for the diocese and for wisdom and discernment for all clergy appointments advisory boards.

A prayer at the time of choosing an Incumbent.

Bountiful God,

give to these parishes faithful pastors

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.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience,

and to us give warm and generous hearts,

for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day.

Everlasting God,

in your tender love for the human race,

you sent your Son to take our nature,

and to suffer death upon the cross:

in your mercy

enable us to share in his obedience to your will

and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Scripture Reflection

A Reflection for contemplating Palm/Passion Sunday to Good Friday.

The Rev'd Anne Turner 'Elder' of the Anam Cara Community; joint locum Priest, Parish of Avon. (Mark 11:1-11; 14:1-15: 41)

"Once Again" for "People just like us"

"Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice,
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life,
And I'm in that place once again.
I'm in that place once again.

Once again I look upon the cross where you died,
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you, once again I pour out my life."

These words from the first verse and refrain from the song/hymn by Matt Redman, speak to the heart of our faith and our call as his disciples to walk the way of Christ to the Cross.

We are once again encouraged to identify with and connect our own stories to God's story in Christ. At the same time we identify with others in the story, "people just like us", to coin a phrase of our new Diocesan Bishop Kay, in her installation sermon. Thus, in and through Christ, grow more and more in Christlikeness and into the true self God created us to become. We are always on the journey of "becoming".

Here we are once again in this annual place in the liturgical year when our focus is on the week of highest drama and intense climax of Christ's earthly life. Once again our focus and climax is the cross. We are reminded Jesus exhorts us to take up our cross daily, deny ourselves (that ego driven and controlling centre of our lives) and follow him to become paradoxically transformed more and more into his likeness, if we so choose. To allow our lives to be controlled by our Christ centre and our truest human self.

Today, once again we can take into heart and soul the words of the song, "and I'm in that place once again" the centrality of the sacrificial death of Christ. Yet, I ask myself "Am I truly in that place once again?" or has the reality become dimmed in the mists of time.

Now once again I/we are challenged to be more than onlookers of a drama or listeners to an historical story. If we truly desire to become like Christ who in every respect lived as one of us, then we need to choose to participate fully and know ourselves to be part of the drama, part of the story.

Once again we are there in that place with Christ in his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey in readiness for his suffering and death. We are in that place with all those people displaying all the vagaries of the human condition, people just like us....do we see it?---

We are part of a huge procession, waving palm branches, strewing them along the way, dancing, singing, calling out "Hosanna ! Hosanna, !----- Do we hear ourselves, others, people just like us?----- Can we smell the palms?---- Taste the atmosphere?---

This is high drama and in good liturgy and worship in churches, rituals in communities, peace marches in towns and cities across the world, we ARE in that place once again.

It is why good liturgy will provide opportunities for drama, music, movement, silence, prayer, symbols /visuals, fragrances, words, sacraments, in our occasions of worship. Each time our senses are engaged in worship we are helped to enter that story, God's story once again.

Once again, today, we hear the words of scripture dramatically in narrating the Passion of our Lord. Once again, we are not subscribe from the beginning, but in that place once again, as people just like us have been since that very first triumphal entry into Jerusalem marking the beginning of this most Holy of Weeks in the Christian story.

Do we see ourselves, feel ourselves, know ourselves as being part of the story? A being in that place once again?

Let us image ourselves, for a moment, just as we are in our particular lives right now, in that place in Jerusalem----

Enter into the scene as best you can putting aside the distractions around you----

Use all your senses, listen--- observe----- smell---- touch---- even taste-----

See Jesus, as YOU know him, perhaps you've met him personally before-----

Maybe this is the first time, but you've heard about him, his words and teachings his miracles and healings-----

Here is a king like no other before or since, riding on a donkey-----

You wave, palms in your hands and join in with the crowd calling out " Hosanna!" Hosanna!" ---

You are part of the crowd, where abouts are you in that crowd? -----

Are you close to Jesus or far away?---

Would you like to be closer?-----

How are you feeling?-----

Here is a way of prayer and meditation we can all use, if we find it helpful, for our spiritual growth. We can enter using our God given imaginations and see in our minds' eye every part of the life of Jesus and indeed the whole of God's story throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Some may find it a useful practice especially at times of high drama like this upcoming Holy Week.

Once again we can enter fully the place of the Passover meal, Jesus' last supper with his friends, those he loved, people just like us. Here he demonstrates his upcoming death. He urges us to remember what he is about to do for humankind, using the bread and the wine as tokens of his soon to be broken body and poured out blood. He urges us to remember and continue for all time, to meet in the taking and eating of the broken bread and drinking of the poured out wine. Once again we will participate in this meal during the liturgy.

On this same occasion He demonstrates His servant leadership in the washing of the Disciples' feet calling them and us to that same ministry to each other.

Once again we can be present with those three, frail human beings, Peter James and John, people just like us, falling asleep, after Jesus had asked them to stay awake with him to support him as he agonised in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Here Christ wrestles with God in the depth and anguish of prayer in his pleading that he need not face the suffering and death to come.

"Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done."
Once again we witness his complete surrender of his human ego to the will of God.

Once again we are present at the betrayal by someone just like us, in his friend and disciple Judas Iscariot, even whilst greeting him with a kiss was delivering him into the hands of this enemies.

We are in that place once again, as he is arrested and dragged away. Dragged away to face hate filled questioning, mocking, whipping, torturing, before he appears before a kangaroo court led by power hungry, threatened religious leaders and a weak ineffectual governor, who washes his hands of doing justice.

Pontius Pilate hands over Christ in exchange for a recognised criminal to that same crowd who only a few days previously had cried "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" but now scream "Crucify him! Crucify him!" People just like us.

Once again we are in that place in the courtyard during this so called trial, with Peter, a person just like us, who three times denies even knowing Jesus even though, only a day before he had passionately affirmed his love and faithfulness to Jesus, the Christ.

What shame and remorse follows for this disciple before he could truly serve others in the name of his beloved Christ.

Once again we are on the road to Golgotha witnessing the bleeding, staggering figure of the tortured Christ carrying that heavy cross to the place of execution.

Once again we hear the jeering of the crowd see their spitting on him, their abuse in word and action, people just like us.

Once again we see another, just like us, as Simon of Cyrene relieves Christ of his cross for a short time, at the command of the guards to make sure Jesus reaches his final destination.

Once again we look upon that middle cross and the figure of Christ mocked still further by the cruel crown of thorns that had earlier been rammed onto his head.

Soldiers gamble at the foot of his cross as Christ suffered his final agonising hours, backs turned and Christ's suffering ignored by people just like us.

Once again we are in that place with Jesus' mother and the other women and men who loved him accompanying him to the end, agonising for him filled with compassion and helpless in their grief. People just like us.

Once again we are in that place with the two thieves crucified either side of our Lord and their two different responses to Jesus and his to the one who recognises him as the Son of God, promising him a place in Paradise with Christ himself.

People like us, are assured it is never too late to truly recognise Christ the Messiah.

Once again we hear those heartrending cries to God of the bitter feeling of being abandoned by God in his greatest hour of need. Yet, again the complete surrender to the will of God even amidst this all too human sense of abandonment. "Your will be done."

Once again we are in that place witnessing the sacrificial offering of Himself for all of humankind, asking the Father to forgive those responsible for his death because of their ignorance as to the truth and the consequences of their actions. People just like us.

Once again we are in that place of the final moment of death and the cosmic effects as Jesus bows his head saying "it is finished"

Once again we are reduced to silence shock and awe, as together with the centurion we can say, "Surely this man was the Son of God." Never too late.

"Now you are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens where one day I'll bow,
But for now I marvel at your saving grace
And I'm full of praise once again.

Once again I look upon the cross where you died,
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life." (Matt Redman. Spring Harvest)

Amen Let it be So.

Photo Reflection

Holy Island, Lindisfarne. Photo Jane Macqueen

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
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- Soul carer (Community Leader): Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or jemacqueen@gmail.com)
- Secretary / Librarian: Sue [03 5182 5542](tel:0351825542)
- Treasurer: Kate
- Postal mail: Anam Cara Community, PO Box 708, 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

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen
On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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