

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 29 August 2015



Traralgon River, a touch of Spring. Photo by Carolyn Raymond

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 30th August 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.

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:

- The parishes of Morwell, Nar Nar Goon(vacant) Neerim South and Omeo.
- Bishop Kay and the registry staff, Brian, Annette, Danielle and new staff member, Kellie Harris.
- Brian Turner as he waits for a lung biopsy following the removal of 2 litres of fluid, he has a surgeons appointment on Monday in Melbourne.
- Associates who have asked for our prayers: Sue Hopkins, Chris Venning, Norma and June.
- The leaders of European nations to work together to find solutions for the refugee crisis. For all people desperately seeking asylum, for comfort in their distress and protection from the exploitation of people smugglers.
- For the people of Nepal, Vanuatu and Myanmar struggling to recover from the devastation of natural disasters.
- All families around the world touched by tragedy as a result of the inhumane actions of others, all suffering following the terrorist attacks around the world. The people of Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.
- For all refugees and asylum seekers for safety, protection and just treatment. For all in positions of authority to form policies with justice and compassion.

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 ministry of prayer and availability as a listening ear. Anne is increasingly house bound as she 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.

Prayer of the Day.

Cleanse our consciences, O Lord,
and enlighten our hearts
through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ,
that when he comes in glory to be our judge
we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Scripture Reflection

14th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev'd Julie Brackenreg

Psalms 45:1-2,6-9; Song of Songs 2:8-13; Mark 7:1-8, 14-23; James 1:17-27

Loving the right and hating the wrong

It seems that often churches, church goers and especially church officials, aka clergy, find themselves in very hot and murky waters as perceived by "outsiders" i.e. the "public" and other community groups. It also seems that these murky waters are gleefully stirred by "trouble-makers", "muck-rakers" and worst of all "the press" to pull up the draw-bridges, close the wagons and sit inside the enclosure screaming outwardly "Not so, unfair" whilst inwardly sobbing about being the persecuted righteous who will never receive justice in this life and looking to heaven for future reward.

What is at the root of these culture clashes, misunderstandings and misinterpretations? What causes such animosity towards the church? Why is this animosity so often expressed with such vehemence and loathing disdain?

Today's readings provide some of the answer. In modern society the eleventh commandment, were it to be written, would surely be "Thou shalt not be a hypocrite" – everywhere we see evidence that saying one thing whilst doing the opposite is unacceptable – think of politicians' entitlements vs a decent living wage; spending on gigantic armaments vs provision of public schools and hospitals; corporate CEO salaries vs provision of penalty rates for weekend workers; declaring public streets "off limits" whilst a local councillor celebrates his wedding – the list is endless. At the root of many justifiable complaints against both excess and outright corruption is the perception of the hypocrisy being practised by the powerful.

The words of the Bible speak often against such behaviour. Today's Psalm praises the one who "loves righteousness and hates wickedness". The Gospel warns directly against the hypocrisy of outward worship with our lips and religious traditions whilst inwardly being filled with filth and living in sin. Finally James implores us not to deceive ourselves by being only hearers of the word – we must become doers of the word if our religion is not to be practised in vain.

How then do we attempt to mitigate against the criticism which seems at times to rain down like burning coals upon our heads?

It is evident that the procedures described above of isolationism and taking comfort in our own kind are at best temporary and usually counter-productive. They only serve to antagonise the opposition and confirm their worst suspicions.

Again looking at our readings we find alternate answers. They are simple and effective, yet at times require humility and admission of fault which can make them seem impossible and unrealistic to modern eyes – even the eyes of those who profess to follow the "simple Saviour".

We are to be followers of the One whose truth and beauty are expressed in the Song of Songs – the Beloved who delighted in the natural world and invited us to come with him. We are to follow the king who has been anointed with the oil of gladness. We are not to continue to blame outside forces for our own wrong-doing but instead we are to guard against our own inward impurities.

Above all we are to accept the good and perfect gift of life offered to us by the "Father of lights". This gift of truth will bring us to understand and live God's pure and undefiled religion which is to live in relationship with others simply and to take care of our own lives so that we remain unspotted by the ways of evil.

May God grant us grace to follow this teaching.

Photo Reflections

Julie has also included for us some photos for reflection... this first one of two of her grandchildren speaks of love and delight found in another in a pure and simple way...



Blackheath, a taste of Winter in Julie's street.

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:

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- 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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