

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 9 June 2018



Tambo Riber. Photo, Ross

Byrne

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 10 June 2018.

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:

- Diocesan Administrator, Philip Muston and the registry staff, Brian, Annette, Sue and David.
- Thanksgiving for the election of The Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar as the thirteenth Bishop of Gippsland. Prayers for Bishop elect Richard, his wife Leanne and children Rachel and Nicholas as they look toward new beginnings.
- Associates and friends who have asked for prayer: Norma, June, Fiona Barry, Chris Venning and Val Lawrence.
- For peacemakers in our world. For world leaders in their discussions and decision making.
- For all who suffer as a result of violence.
- For wise and compassionate counsel and some direction and hope for the future of refugees and asylum seekers across the globe.

Prayer of the day

Almighty God,
give us such a vision of your purpose,
and such an assurance of your love and power,
that we may ever hold fast
the hope which is in Jesus Christ our Lord;

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflection

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8.4-20; 11.14-15; Ps 138; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 (2-5); Mark 3.20-35

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

When many people heard Jesus preach, it seems they did not always say to one another "Wow! What a preacher! Listen to what he is saying! These are the words of God!" Rather, we are told that only some responded to him and a number of others said "He is crazy and out of his mind!" Jesus confronted his listeners and applied a very different and challenging sort of understanding to their usual thinking about God and the world. Jesus still confronts us today, 2000 years later. Jesus is not crazy as they claim; he just sometimes sounds crazy when we listen to him from the standpoint of what the world teaches us is rational. To be a disciple of Christ, to be his follower, is to be given the grace to think about God, the world, and ourselves in a different way - the way of Christ, the way of God's Kingdom.

Mark's Gospel is full of conflict in which Jesus deals with uncomprehending disciples and constant critics. In today's passage from Mark, Jesus has difficulty with his family. His family tries to restrain him, in response to hearing people claim that "He is out of his mind!" The scribes say: "He has Beelzebul. He has a demon spirit!" Jesus responds by saying: "It makes no sense. Satan cannot cast out Satan as you see that I can do. You say I am out of my mind. That I am insane. But I am exactly the opposite." An insane person is someone who is out of touch with reality, a person who, inside his or her mind, is living in another world space. Clearly Jesus has come proclaiming and enacting a very different sort of reality, another way of being that is counter to our usual expectations of reality. This reality is named The Kingdom of God – a system of values, a set of assumptions and expectations that is counter to the way we are told the world works. Thus, Jesus is dismissed as "out of his mind". But he is not out of his mind – he's in another frame of reference, another realm of consciousness that is called by Jesus, the Kingdom of God.

In Mark Chap 3, Jesus is back home with his family in Nazareth and his family want to be justifiably proud of this up- and- coming popular young Rabbi. Unfortunately, his family are hugely embarrassed because everybody on hearing Jesus' radical teaching proclaim "he's out of his mind". You might hear his family and friends saying to Jesus "Jesus, please say something normal and rational to us. Give us something we can relate to and not be too challenged by" And Jesus responds: "Alright. Try this. You can only grow up by turning and becoming a little child. You can't get into the Kingdom of God unless you become as a child. And if you want to win, you do so by losing. Also, you only receive by giving. And you only truly live by dying to self." All that Jesus says sounds the wrong way round, and is so

frustrating to his family and even his disciples. They wonder: Is he in fact a little mad? Yet his healings and his actions speak of something far greater than being just mad.

Jesus goes on to say things like:- Blessed are the poor! Happy are the hungry! How fortunate you are who are divorced, or unemployed, and those of you who are poor in spirit! In our world those who are divorced or unemployed or depressed or bereft are not envied and may even be seen as failures. Because we are Anam Cara people, we probably don't like thinking of ourselves as spiritually inept. We are involved because we are seeking the riches of God's Spirit. And Jesus replies: "Oh, I am not talking about the way nine out of ten people think. I am trying to teach you a different way of thinking which is in line with God's purpose. Listen: Once there was a rich property developer who was very, very successful. He built and owned so many houses he hardly had time to enjoy them. So, this man said to himself: 'Mate take it easy. Let's stop and enjoy all that I have collected and built up for myself.' But it was too late. That night he died of a heart attack after so much stress and anxiety from all his wheeling and dealing. So what good are all his properties and wealth to him now? I think we all can relate to the message Jesus was trying to give. None of it was worth the danger to his health and well-being and no-one, it seems, benefitted from all his wealth. He could have given a lot of it away and he would have been much happier in the long run.

The world's ways are not God's ways. It is important to remind ourselves that Jesus' way, the way of the Cross, can only be seen as reasonable from the perspective of God's Kingdom. Let us each look at the way we do a lot of things in our world and think whether this is the way God would have it.

Photo Reflection



Water dragon. Photo Jane

Macqueen

Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

1. The Abbey

**A Hundred Years of Change - Music, Art, Religion and Journalism
1650 - 1750**

led by June Treadwell

[5pm Friday 13 July - 4pm Saturday 14 July 2018](#)

Cost per person

Residential: incl. [dinner Fri](#), [breakfast](#) & [lunch Sat](#)

twin/share accom: \$135

single accom: additional \$35

Non residential: incl. [dinner Fri](#), B'fast & [Lunch Sat](#): \$85

Come on a journey to visit musicians Barbara Strozzi, G.F. Handel, Francesca Caccini and the music making Nuns. Spend time with Johannes Vermeer in Delft and follow the accounts of diarists, Pepys, Evelyn, and Dr Nathaniel Hawthorne as they describe the Plague and the Great Fire of London. Finally join George Fox and William Penn at the

Quaker Meeting House in Jordans, Bucks.

Winter Feast at the Abbey

12 noon

Saturday 11th August

Come and celebrate with other Friends of The Abbey as we enjoy the gourmet creations of chef,

Bishop Jeffrey Driver

4 course meal, with wine: \$58 per person

2. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

- Christian Meditation

- [7.45am - 8.15am](#) every [Wednesday](#) AND

- [5.30 - 6.00 pm](#) every [Thursday](#)

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

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

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 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
 - 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)
 - 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
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Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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