

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 10 October 2015



Flinders Rangers, SA. Photo by Ross Byrne

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 11th October 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.

Community News

Servant Leader – Brian Turner

Brian and Anne received bad news this week as Brian's specialist confirmed that he has aggressive, late stage, malignant mesothelioma. Sadly there is no treatment but his specialist team will work together with his GP and oncologist to care for him and manage his pain. Brian is hoping to be well enough to celebrate the Eucharist for us at our Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Morwell on 21st November. We continue to surround them with our love and prayers.

Coming Events

October Quiet Day

Unfortunately we have made the decision to cancel the Quiet Day which was to have been held [on 17th October](#). Those who were leading the day are now unable to attend due to serious illness in their families.

Thanksgiving Service - Our final Community event for 2015 will be a Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon

Where: St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell

When: 21st November

Further details to follow but please put this date in your diaries for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving.

Diocesan Retreat - Open to all... clergy and lay people... led by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

When: 5pm Friday 23rd October to 3.30pm Saturday 24th October

Where: The Abbey of St Barnabas on Raymond Island.

For further information please contact Anna at the Abbey on 51566580 or Robert Fordham on 51567966.

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 Traralgon, Warragul and Westernport.
- Bishop Kay, Jeri and the registry staff, Brian, Annette, Danielle and Kellie.
- Brian and Anne Turner as they process his diagnosis of mesothelioma. For peace, wisdom, and strength as they walk through each day. For their family and friends as they grieve and journey with them and for the parish of Avon where Brian has been part time Rector and is at present their one day per week joint locum priest with Anne.
- Heather Toms and her mother Margaret as Margaret receives palliative care.
- Chris Venning as he recovers from surgery.
- Associates who have asked for our prayers: Val Lawrence, Sue Hopkins, Norma and June.
- The leaders of our nation, political leaders, leaders of the Muslim community, church leaders, community leaders, parents and teachers. That all may work together to find words of inclusivity, hope and a way forward for our nation that does not include violence and hatred.
- The leaders of all European nations to work together to find solutions for the refugee crisis.
- For all who are planning for the resettlement of refugees in our own and other countries. For wisdom and open hearts.
- For the refugees themselves in their desperation and distress.
- For all victims of domestic violence and those who care for them.
- For the people of Japan, 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 Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, Iraq, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.

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.

Merciful God,
in your Son you call not the righteous
but sinners to repentance:
draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction,
and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant,
that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will,
we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus our Saviour;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reflection

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23.1-9, 16-17; Ps 22.1-15; Hebrews 4.12-16; Mark 10.17-31

Today I am sharing some notes from the resource 'Seasons of the Spirit' -SeasonsFUSION a resource for congregations published by Mediacom Education Inc.

Faith Essentials

At times, the perceived absence of God from our lives evokes our questions. At other times, it is the presence of God that grieves us. Words born of God's love are not always welcomed or heeded when they seek our transformation. Yet what seems impossible for us to do or conceive grows in possibility when we recognize Jesus' deep love for us.

Over the years, various explanations have been offered for Jesus' statement about a camel passing through the eye of a needle. Perhaps the most popular is that there was a door in the wall of Jerusalem that a person could get through, but which was not big enough for a camel; it was called "the needle's eye." Given that only the wealthy could afford a camel to carry their worldly possessions, the implication was that one could only enter the city through that gate if one were unencumbered. The only problem is that, if such a gate existed at all, it is not attested to until some 800 years after the time of Jesus. It is an intriguing story, but doubtful that Jesus meant it that way.

Maybe Jesus was trying to make a different point. The idea of a camel going through the eye of a needle is ludicrous, but so is the idea of a wealthy person getting into the realm of God. It's not that God would outlaw or prohibit such a thing, but rather that a person caught up in wealth and the making of more wealth cannot see the way in which God's realm operates. In this story, the rich man seems to recognize that, but fears change. This person knows the commandments, and knows what is required of all people to be in favour with God. Yet there is something missing, and so he asks Jesus for advice. But Jesus' advice does not sit well: "Go, sell all you have, give it to the poor, and come back and follow me." The rich person cannot do this.

The question that begins the conversation with Jesus is one that many would have wondered about in those days. Yet it is not about an afterlife in heaven, but about living in the new reality that God was about to bring to bear on earth. For too many years the Jews had longed for a day they knew was coming – a time when God's realm would be present on earth; they called this the Age to Come. It is precisely life in that age the person wants to inherit, and they inquire as to how.

In addition to giving a commandment, however, notice what Jesus does. We are told in verse 21 that Jesus "loved him" and some scholars have suggested this means Jesus offered a loving gesture, perhaps putting his arm around the other's shoulder. Jesus does not stand in judgment, but enters into the other one's space, implying perhaps that he sees the world through their eyes. Jesus also suggests that selling all he has and giving the money to the poor will in turn give him an investment with God. It's as if Jesus had said, "You want to invest in God? Invest in those who have need." It is hardly an uncommon theme in the gospels, and yet one that can be a struggle to grasp.

Just as this rich person has questions about how to attain God's favour, so does Job. Caught up in suffering, Job longs not so much for what is missing as simply for the presence of God in his life. Even in pain and grief he knows there is a loving God, yet he simply cannot connect with God.

In the Hebrews reading we are reminded that, even naked and unadorned before God, still God accepts us. Jesus knows all we have gone through, having experienced life just like us, with all its ups and downs, and understands all we go through. Just as he may have done with the rich one, so Jesus reaches out in love and touches us. From time to time we all can wonder how we "earn" God's favour. Hebrews reminds us that we need not do that, because of the undeserved goodness – grace – of Jesus Christ. In response to this we are called to give to others as a way of giving to God.

God of wondrous presence, when we feel abandoned and alone, come to us. Help us to give, that we might receive so much more from you. Help us to know that, by grace, we are invited into your realm. Amen.

Material from *Seasons of the Spirit* -SeasonsFUSION a resource for congregations published by Mediacom Education Inc.

Photo Reflection



Spring, new life and hope. Photo Jane

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, 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), cheryl@gippsanglican.org.au

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen
On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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