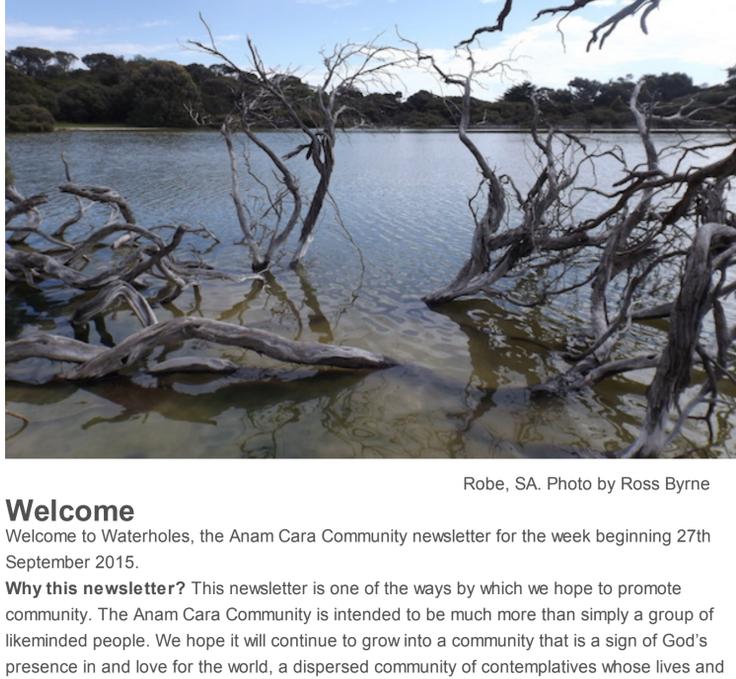


Anam Cara Community

Waterholes: 26 September 2015



Robe, SA. Photo by Ross Byrne

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 27th September 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 Events

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 Sale, Tambo and Trafalgar.
- Bishop Kay, Jeri and the registry staff, Brian, Annette, Danielle and Kellie.
- Brian Turner who has been diagnosed with cancer. For he and Anne and his family as they meet with Prof Choong in Melbourne on 5th October to receive the biopsy results. Discernment for all as they plan ongoing treatment. For Brian and the surgeon as he has another investigative procedure locally on 30th September. For Anne in her care of both Brian and herself.
- Heather Toms and her mother Margaret as Margaret receives palliative care.
- Chris Venning as he prepares for surgery on 6th October.
- Associates who have asked for our prayers: Val Lawrence, Sue Hopkins, Norma and June.
- The leaders of all European nations to work together to find solutions for the refugee crisis.
- For all who are at providing care and help to the huge numbers of refugees and for all those planning for their resettlement. 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.

O God,

your Son has taught us

that those who give a cup of water in his name

will not lose their reward:

open our eyes to see those who are in need,

and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,

so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you

in your children,

we may labour for the treasure that endures;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection

The Rev'd Graham Knott, Rector, St Peter's Leongatha.

James 5:12-20 Mark 9:38-50

Throughout the record of the life of Jesus we see the efforts of others to control the fresh move of God and the new life in God which he was bringing. To try to control others seems to lie at the heart of humanity – individuals exercise their power over others just as nations try to dominate other nations. Power and its abuse lies at the heart of human history. There are far too many people who have or are suffering at the hands of others who have been groomed, manipulated and then found themselves trapped in the most difficult of circumstances from which it is apparently impossible to break free. Throughout Mark's narrative of the Jesus story thus far we have seen the attempts of the legalistic religious to control Jesus; we have seen his family try to convince him to give up and come back home. However as the costliness of Jesus' mission becomes known and the prospect of persecution and death lies ahead we see Jesus facing attempts to control him in a much more sinister way.

The inner core of his friends will demonstrate that they have totally misunderstood and so try to divert him. In the last chapter when Peter rebuked Jesus (8:32) because he couldn't grasp the inevitability of the cross; Jesus began to feel the sense of being misunderstood by friends which is among the worst forms of loneliness and isolation. In this week's passage the focus is on John who is trying unsuccessfully to control the healing work. John is apparently ignorant that someone who is not one of the 'in crowd' is successfully doing kingdom work. The vividness of the NIV translation of v38 speaks at this point – 'we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.' He sounds rather like the Pharisees in wanting to control who does what. In the times since Jesus those who have seen the work of Christ move forward have not been part of the in crowd. They have had to work beyond the boundaries because those who are within have so tightly determined the how they think God will work. People such as Luther and Wesley have been pushed outside the existing church. Perhaps to remember that it is not the church of God which has a mission but the mission of God which has a church.

In these chapters it is the responses of Peter, James and John which come under scrutiny. It is if we are being warned of the dangers of thinking that those who give themselves to walking the Jesus way can easily be exclusivist in their thinking – to have godly gain without pain (8:32-33), to control the borders (9:38) and to be give special privileges. (10:37) Peter, James and John are the inner core of the disciples who have seen and heard dazzling things. Yet they didn't get it.

However there is evidence of a lively inclusive community happening around Jesus at that very moment. It may not have been neat and tidy and controlled but it seems as if all ages and all sorts were there as Jesus begins the move to Jerusalem. It's easy to miss in the small portions we read from the gospels weekly but there are three times when Jesus points to the children in the midst and says that the disciples are to learn from them. (9:33-37; 9:42; 10:13-16) It's as if the disciples are adamant about describing their community with its exclusivity and power and childlike because these are the ones whom Jesus would put his arms around and bless.

It is in the safety of such a community that I want to be held and to hold others. It seems that we are being confronted at the moment with the suffering of so many and especially those we love. James pictures the kind of community to which we can aspire. It is one in which we are free to express openly what we are facing whether that be good or bad. It is one where the community takes responsibility for the sick. James encourages the suffering to pray individually; the praising to sing individually but the sick are to be held before God with the love of the whole faith community. They are not to be left to stand or fall alone. The prayer of faith is not the prayer of the individual where they must struggle in the midst of pain to think about whether their faith is sufficient or otherwise. It's as if we echo the ancient prayer, "Lord Jesus, Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever". In times of pain and sickness it is the faith of our sisters and brothers holding hands together who hold and encourage us.

James imagines a Jesus community where people are able to fail openly but be forgiven and accepted – a community where grace and strong love walk hand in hand. It is a community where the childlike is encouraged and the childish challenged. The childish is the grasping for power and control; excluding for no reason other than we don't like others because they're dissimilar from us and the keeping of secrets because they have enormous power.

In the community of the childlike that which is precious will develop within us and be a wellspring of healing and hope for others. As Jesus concludes, "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Photo Reflection



"Childlike a wellspring of healing and hope." My grandson enjoying a swing at the park today. 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
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- **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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