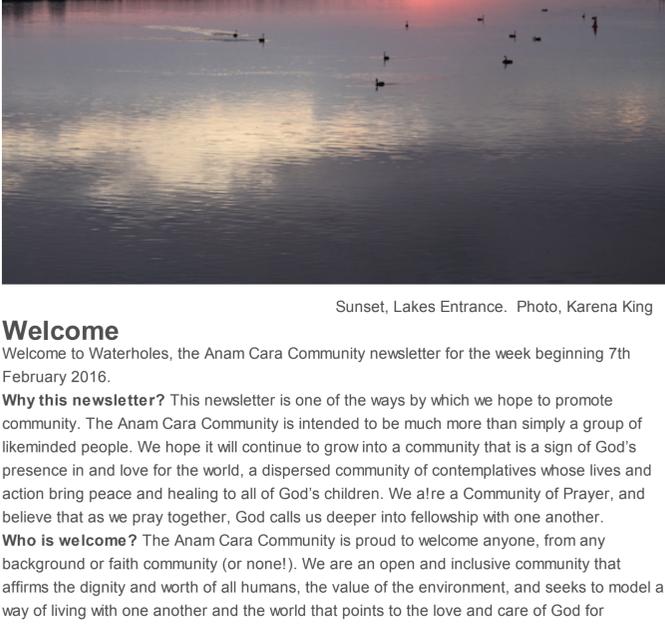


# Anam Cara Community

## Waterholes: 6 February 2015



Sunset, Lakes Entrance. Photo, Karena King

### Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 7th February 2016.

**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 like-minded 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

**Welcome to the first Waterholes for 2016!** The servant leaders have met during January and are pleased to say that we have made plans for four Quiet Days during the year. As we each make plans for 2016 please prayerfully consider putting aside these dates to intentionally spend a day to step aside from the busyness of life and just be in the presence of God in the company of others.

March 19 - Lenten Quiet Day, Holy Trinity Stratford (details below!).

May 21 - Quiet Day with a focus on Lectio Divina - The Rev'd David Head

July 16 - Quiet Day with a focus on prayer - Sue Hopkins

September 17 - Quiet Day led by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

**New Servant Leader** - We are delighted to announce that The Rev'd David Head, Rector St Mary's Morwell has accepted our invitation to join the small group of Servant Leaders of the Anam Cara Community. David has been an Associate of the Community for a number of years and the Community has been greatly blessed to receive from him as he has led Quiet Days and last November shared the reflection at the Annual Thanksgiving Service. David shares our Scripture Reflection for Waterholes today. We are thankful for his willingness to join the Servant Leaders. He joins Brian Turner, Heather Toms, Kate Campbell, Sue Hopkins, Val Lawrence and myself (Jane Macqueen).

**Financial Associates** - Thank you for the encouragement and support from the 37 Associates who have renewed their annual financial membership since November. Your support continues to help build a community committed to prayer and contemplation. It also allows us to continue to provide resources for others who are seeking a more intimate relationship with God.

**Report to Bishop in Council** - As a recognised ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland we have again been invited to report to meetings of the Bishop in Council to keep them informed about the ministry of the Anam Cara Community. We are thankful for the support of the Registry office who are allowing us to use their PO Box for any future correspondence. This provision and other measures have allowed the Community to increase its donations to other ministries.

**Recent Donations** - \$300 was recently donated toward the ministry of the Abbey of St Barnabas on Raymond Island.

\$700 was recently sent to the Living Well Centre as an annual contribution to the Colin Thornby Memorial Grant which was set up in 2015 to assist students from regional areas who are in formation as Spiritual Directors (a portion of this amount was received from Associates with their annual membership renewals specifically marked for this purpose).

#### Library -

Did you know that the Anam Cara Community has an extensive library? All seekers in the faith may borrow these books, either at our quiet days or through our

website <http://anamcaragippsland.org>

There is no library fee, though if books are to be mailed out a donation to cover the postage costs would be appreciated.

In the past year the library has grown considerably and now includes recent publications and also a number of journals. This is a great resource and it's just got even better! The full catalogue is on the Community's website for viewing.

### Coming Event

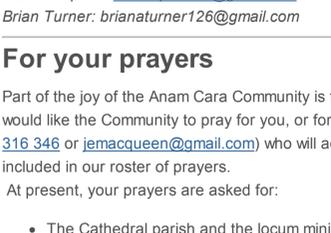
#### Quiet Day - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Holy Trinity Stratford.

9.30am – 3.30 pm

#### 'Towards Easter - A Lenten Reflection'

We will explore together what it means to live out of Jesus' resurrection and the inbreaking of *shalom* that Jesus brings in response to the brokenness of the world.



Led By: Brian Turner, Kate Campbell and Jane Macqueen

(We will be referring to the helpful reflection material supplied by AngliCORD and available for all on the day)

What to bring: your lunch, pen & notepad.

Tea/coffee/water & Morning Tea provided.

Donations welcomed nil - \$15 depending on means.

To let us know you are planning to attend or for further details, contact:

Jane Macqueen: [jemacqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemacqueen@gmail.com)

Kate Campbell: [hkcampbell55@gmail.com](mailto:hkcampbell55@gmail.com)

Brian Turner: [brianturner126@gmail.com](mailto:brianturner126@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto: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 Cathedral parish and the locum ministry which continues.
- All parishes in our diocese who are seeking a new incumbent. Avon, Bunyip, Croajingolong, Heyfield, Maffra, Orbost, Sale, Tambo and Westernport. For Bishop Kay, long and short term locums, the Clergy Appointments Boards, Parish Councils, Ministry Teams, Lay Leaders and Lay Readers.
- Brian Turner as he lives with mesothelioma and Anne as she cares for him and manages her own central core disease.
- Heather Toms and her mother Margaret as Margaret receives palliative care.
- Thanksgiving for good results and better health for Associates Chris Venning and Sue Hopkins.
- Associates and friends who have asked for our prayers: Norma, June, Warren critically ill with cancer and his wife Mandy and family.
- The Living Well Centre, John Stewart and Cath Connelly as they prepare for the first session in their new year of the Spiritual Direction formation program. For all Spiritual Directors in formation and in active ministry.
- For all victims of child sexual abuse, all survivors and their families. For all who will be called to speak at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- The 270 asylum seekers effected by the recent court ruling and all who care for them. For all refugees and asylum seekers held in off shore detention camps on Nauru and Manus Island.
- The people of Syria, those under siege, all at risk of starvation and suffering the results of war. Thanksgiving for the recent announcement of 10 billion dollars in aid. Prayer as the peace talks collapse.
- For all refugees and asylum seekers and for those who are fleeing towards a compassionate solution to the increasing numbers of people fleeing their homelands.
- For all leaders who are working for peace in the Middle East.
- For all nations and people suffering drought, starvation and the effects of extreme weather events.
- 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.
- For all victims of domestic violence and those who care for them.

A number of parishes in our Diocese, including the Cathedral parish 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.

Eternal God, our glorious King,

whose Son Jesus Christ was transfigured

on the holy mountain

and seen in splendour by his chosen witnesses:

grant us, his followers, faith to perceive his

glory,

to listen to him, and to walk in his way,

that we may be changed into his likeness

from glory to glory;

for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Reflection

#### Last Sunday after Epiphany

##### Transfiguration

Reflection by The Rev'd David Head, St Mary's Morwell

Exodus 34.29-35; Ps 99;

2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2;

Luke 9. 28-36 (37-43)

Several years ago now, Susan Boyle had the biggest selling album for a female artist for the year worldwide. And all of this was through appearing on a TV Talent quest show. She first came on stage as the exact opposite of a pop icon. She was a rather dowdy, plump, middle-aged and unprepossessing poor Scottish Council Estate woman. But she had the courage to enter "Britain- You've Got Talent" and to face the disbelief and sniggers of the judges and audience alike as she came on stage. And then she began to sing – and did she sing! She stunned the world with the power and passion and beauty of her voice. She went on to win as the top talent of the Series for that year. In our own country we have seen amazing unknown talents come forward on the 'X Factor' and on 'The Voice' and on 'Australia You've Got Talent' and then we have Australian Master Chef and other cooking contest shows and Dancing with the Stars and the Home Renovation contests. All these shows seem to be very popular probably because the viewers connect with the ordinariness of most of the contestants and admire the passion and conviction of people to succeed in life for themselves they believe they have. How important it is to have a dream, to find a meaning in life for our talent and to seek to try to live that dream. How important it is to recognize and to be able to use our God-given gifts and talents for the enrichment of ourselves and the world around us.

This Sunday is the last Sunday in the Christian Season of Epiphany and the Gospel reading celebrates the event in Jesus life called the Transfiguration where Jesus before three of his chosen disciples was transfigured and dramatically changed in the blinding power of God's glory and proclaimed to be Beloved Anointed One of God. In God's empowering Spirit Jesus fulfills his destiny to be the Redeemer and Saviour of humankind. There were many dreams and visions for Mary and Joseph and the Wise men and the Shepherds and Elizabeth and Zechariah the parents of John the Baptist and for Jesus himself and these all culminated in the event celebrated today of the Transfiguration, after which Jesus moved inexorably towards his passion and death and then wondrous Resurrection and Ascension.

We have also over the past several weeks been having readings from St Paul's two Letters to the Corinthians which talk about using one's gifts and talents for the service of God. The new fledgling Christian Church in the Greek cosmopolitan city of Corinth seemed to be a particularly conflicted and strife ridden church. It was threatening to be torn apart by gossiping and bickering and factionalism between the ultra -conservatives and the ultra-liberals, and between young men who were power hungry and over -enthusiastic 'up and coming' leaders and the older more experienced and more restrained leaders. We still see this today everywhere and especially in the field of politics don't we? They bickered together about who had spiritual gifts and who didn't and which gifts and talents were more important than others. St Paul with great wisdom and powerful imagery tells them in these two letters to stop their unhelpful, divisive and un Christ-like behavior. Indeed, we have two of the greatest chapters in the New Testament here in Chapter 12 and 13 of his First Letter about the importance of every single person in the body and Christ and that all people have spiritual gifts to be honoured by all. Paul says we ought to celebrate, enjoy and utilize the diversity of strengths that we all have individually to enable the total well-being of our community.

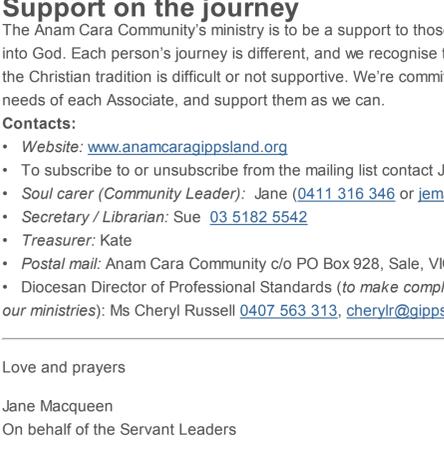
Paul says in today's second reading that since we have the hope of glory and the power of Christ's Spirit within us we ought to act with great boldness, like Susan Boyle did, to be transformed from one degree of glory to another. St Paul says we are the Body of Christ. Not all of us can be the same: of some of us are heads or hearts or eyes or hands or feet – all different but essential parts of the body. St Paul says we need to encourage all parts of the body and to recognise that we each need each other and no one is in essence more important than another. However, having said that we do lose our value and our importance when we fail or cease to use and develop and offer the gifts and talents which have been given to us for the benefit of ourselves and of community. We do this sometimes through lack of self-worth, or apathy, or times of struggle and tragedy. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift and I believe that God is able out of any situation and out of every tragedy to be the enabler of gifts of resource and wisdom to meet and act in time over come that tragedy and that this is God's grace working in our lives.

Getting back to Susan Boyle. She had a hard and difficult early life and yet deep down she believed in her dream and the gift of her voice to give pleasure to others. So, she was able to give reality to that dream in mid-life to in a sense transfigure herself through God's gifts of great courage and determination in the face of possible embarrassing rejection. She has graced the world as a truly passionate, inspiring and heartfelt singer. May each of us grace the world in whatever ways God can transfigure us with the power of the Holy Spirit and use us.

Prayer from Seasons of the Spirit

**God of grace and glory, enliven us to be your people in our world. Especially where there are places of injustice and hurt, help us to be fully alive and fully present, manifesting your glory in all things. Amen.**

### Photo Reflection



Full moon, Lakes Entrance. Photo, Karena King

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au)

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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