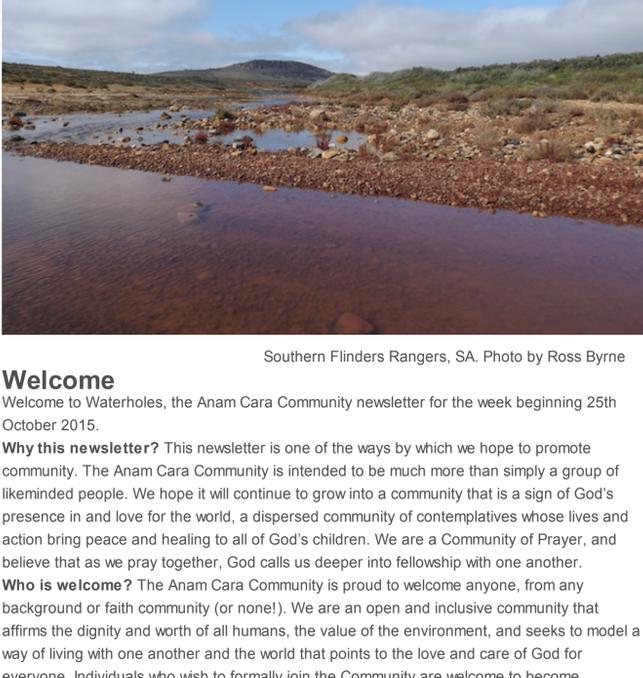


Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 24 October 2015



Southern Flinders Rangers, SA. Photo by Ross Byrne

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 25th 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

Annual financial Membership is now due...

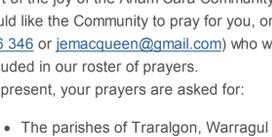
You will have received an email today reminding Associates that the Annual Membership for the Anam Cara Community is now due.

We encourage Associates to help us build community by keeping up their financial membership.

For those who don't feel called to become a financial Associate we are happy for you to continue to receive Waterholes as our gift to you. You are also welcome to offer a small donation towards the Community's ministry without becoming an Associate if you wish to. To do this please use the Membership form sent recently and just select the option of 'Donation'. We pray that the Waterholes continues to be a life-giving addition to your inbox each fortnight!

Coming Events

You are invited to attend the



Annual Thanksgiving Service

of: **The Anam Cara Community**
at: **St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell**
on: **Saturday 21st November 2015**

- Service at 11.00am
- Everyone is welcome, especially Associates and their friends.
- The Rev'd David Head, Rector of Morwell will lead a Reflection during the Service.
- Reaffirmation by all Associates.
- A simple lunch will be provided after the Service and all are welcome to stay.
- RSVP to Jane (jamacqueen@gmail.com - 0411 316 346) or Val (vglawrence1@dodo.com.au)

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 jamacqueen@gmail.com) who will add them to the prayer list, and ensure they are included in our roster of prayers.

At present, our prayers are asked for:

- The parishes of Traralgon, Warragul and Westernport (vacant).
- Bishop Kay, Jeri and the registry staff, Brian, Annette, Danielle and Kellie.
- Brian and Anne Turner for peace, wisdom, and strength as he lives with mesothelioma. for Anne as she manages care for Brian with care for herself. For their family and friends as they grieve and journey with them. For Brian as he leads worship and celebrates at Holy Trinity Stratford tomorrow and hopefully until 22nd November which will be his final service.
- 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.
- For all victims of domestic violence and those who care for them.
- 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 as weather conditions and conditions in the camps deteriorate.
- For all who live with the trauma of war in their homeland.
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, their leaders, all who feel driven to violence.
- For all effected as Hurricane Patricia has made landfall in Mexico and all villages and cities in its path.
- For the people of Japan, Nepal, Vanuatu and Myanmar struggling to recover from the devastation of natural disasters.
- For all effected by tragic accidents, on our own roads and in France with the tragic bus crash.
- 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, Afghanistan, 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:

- 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,
you give light to the blind and comfort to the sorrowing,
and in your Son you have given us a High Priest
who has offered the true sacrifice for us
and yet can sympathise with us in our weakness:
hear the cry of your people
and lead us home to our true country,
where with your Son and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Reflection

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Reflection: *Rev Christopher Venning, Uniting Church, Bendigo*

Job 42:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

As I write this I am just a few days away from surgery for prostate cancer (I enter hospital on October 5). By the time *Waterholes* October 24 is circulated I hope to be on the road to recovery. Such events are a vivid reminder that we can rarely see far into our futures.

Today's Hebrew reading is the familiar passage from the final chapter of Job where he confesses what has been abysmal short-sightedness where God is concerned: 'I had heard of you ... but now my eye sees you' (Job 42:5). Like the many of our generation that struck me in visiting places about which I had read (and even seen images) was how different – and vastly richer – it is to see and experience such places at first hand. And as Job's seeing God led him to 'despise [himself] and repent in dust and ashes' (verse 6), it is a humbling experience to visit such locations as the Pyramids of Giza or Machu Picchu – or natural wonders like the Great Barrier Reef, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone or Yosemite National Parks, or New Zealand's Milford Sound. One of the many benefits we frequently gain from spiritual direction or personal reflection is that gift of God's Spirit we call discernment. It does not often come with the drama of Job's experience but it does in like fashion bring a seeing – a clearer understanding of God and God's work in our lives and in our world.

As we come to the Gospel reading we quickly become aware of a segue. In place of the image of a self-sufficient Job gaining insight into God we see Blind Bartimaeus receiving physical sight, being healed of his blindness by Jesus. A mentor of mine spoke of a friend who counselled him, with tears in his eyes, never to ask God for the gift of healing. He went on to tell how God had used him to bring physical healing to many, only to find that their initial gratitude to God quickly evaporated. But Bartimaeus was not like those people, not like nine of the ten lepers Jesus healed who neglected even to return to say thank you. And the one who did return was a Samaritan! In our Gospel we read how Bartimaeus learned Jesus of Nazareth was passing by on the road from Jericho, and cried out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' (Mark 10:47) Perhaps he was not acknowledging more than was commonly being said of Jesus, but one can sense in his words a hope and faith that here was the long awaited Messiah. Bartimaeus asks Jesus to let him see again. We then read, 'Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way' (verse 52). Not only did Bartimaeus show gratitude – he became a disciple! He learned that truth of which Jesus speaks in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

As a young man and minister I frequently became frustrated when I did not have clear answers to many of life's puzzles, to the spiritual dilemmas we often encounter. Now in my late sixties I welcome mystery – the 'not knowing' which pruds us toward God, which nurtures an appropriate humility and the us to seek God when we cannot see God (perhaps especially when we cannot see God!) The passage from Job is one of many striking examples of human encounters with Yahweh in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus in the New Testament, which left people feeling 'unhinged' or unsure whether they would even survive the encounter. Think Moses, Jacob, Elijah, Gideon, Isaiah – among others. And in Luke's Gospel we learn how Simon Peter, following what seemed a miraculous catch of fish, fell down at Jesus' knees and exclaimed, 'Get away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' (Luke 5:8) Nor is today's Gospel reading without its strong current of miracle, mystery and wonder.

You may have read or heard about the controversy that has been generated in Bendigo in recent weeks over the proposed building of a mosque, to the point where a recent Council meeting had to be suspended in the face of angry and apparently hate-filled protest. Human nature can itself often be something of a mystery. Sometimes mystery generates faith but on other occasions it seems to breed much darker responses. We seem frequently to fear what we don't understand – this may then provoke a fight or flight response. I'm amazed at people's readiness to condemn others or their art from a standpoint of ignorance – for example, to make a scathing critique of a book one has not read or of a film or painting one has not seen. I know I, too, have sometimes made such uninformed judgements. Which brings us full circle, and back to Job's confession of ignorance: 'I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know ... I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you' (Job 42:3, 5). Another appropriate response to the majesty of God and the Messianic ministry of Jesus is that of Bartimaeus: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' (Mark 10:48)

An example of my judging a book on the basis of reviews but without actually having read it relates to Erica Jong's controversial early novel *Fear of Flying* (1973). I recently bought and began reading her new novel *Fear of Dying* (2015) – and found it very different from what I had expected. Whether she has matured and mellowed with age I do not know (it is more than 40 years since her first novel, she has a Jewish background and is now aged 73). Her new book opens with a quotation from the *Mishkan Tefila* (a Jewish Reform Prayer Book), a wonderfully rich prayer with which I conclude this reflection:
Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; Let there be moments when your Presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder, "How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it!"

Photo Reflection

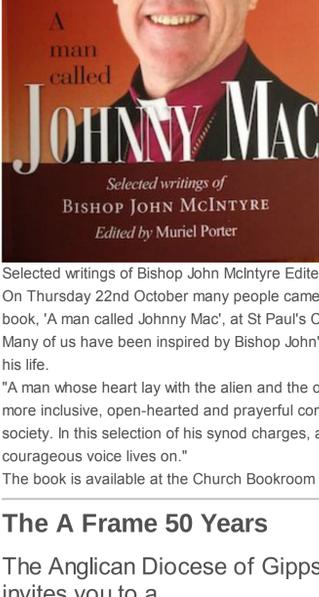


Autumn around London - As I went to select another of my photos of spring breaking forth in Australia I remembered that Jan MacIntyre had sent some photos entitled **'The glory of Autumn is creeping into London!'**

It is good to reflect on our amazing planet and all that connects us to those on the other side of the world. We reflect and join together in prayer.

Book Launch...

A man called Johnny Mac



Selected writings of Bishop John McIntyre Edited by Dr Muriel Porter

On Thursday 22nd October many people came together for the launch of the recently released book, 'A man called Johnny Mac', at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

Many of us have been inspired by Bishop John's words and the authenticity with which he lived his life.

"A man whose heart lay with the alien and the outsider, he challenged the church to become a more inclusive, open-hearted and prayerful community fully engaged with contemporary society. In this selection of his synod charges, addresses, sermons and reflections, his courageous voice lives on."

The book is available at the Church Bookroom at the Gippsland Registry office for \$20.

The A Frame 50 Years

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland

invites you to a

HIGH TEA

to mark the

A Frame's first 50 years of service and to look forward to the future

Saturday 14th November 2015.

Official Celebrations and High Tea commence

at 2pm

The Abbey, A/Beckett Park

1-25 First Parade

Raymond Island

Cost per person \$20

Please RSVP 9 November to Anna, at The Abbey

(03) 51566580, info@theabbey.org.au

www.theabbey.org.au

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 jamacqueen@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), cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

APBA & NRSV portions, TIS hymns 'Reprinted with permission.'

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