

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 14 April 2018



Port Augusta Photo Ross

Byrne

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 15th April 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.

Coming events

Quiet Day

God of Surprises

Led by The Rev'd Heather Toms

Saturday 26 May

Holy Trinity Anglican Church,
McFarlane St, Stratford.



9.30/10.00 am – 3.30 pm

What to bring: your lunch, pen & notepad

Tea/coffee/water & morning tea provided

Donations welcomed nil - \$15 depending on means

RSVP: Jane 0411316346 or jemacqueen@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) 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 Board of Electors for wisdom and discernment in the selection process for our new Bishop.
- The registry staff, Philip, Brian, Annette, Kellie, Sue and David.
- Associates who have asked for prayer: Norma, June, Chris Venning, Sue Hopkins and Val Lawrence.
- For peacemakers in our world. For political 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

Lord of life,
by submitting to death, you conquered the grave;
by being lifted upon the cross, you draw all peoples to you;
by being raised from the dead,
you restore to humanity all that was lost through sin:
be with us in your risen power,
that in word and deed we may proclaim
the marvellous mystery of death and resurrection.
For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity.

Amen.

Reflection

3rd Sunday of Easter

The Rev'd Chris Venning

WITNESSES TO A RISEN CHRIST

Acts 3.12-20

Psalm 4

I John 2.15-17; 3.1-6

Luke 24.36b-48

'We are a resurrection people' is an affirmation that has been attributed to (and claimed by) many! But that does not detract from its truth or wonder. We have a reminder in this season of the Christian calendar or year of the possibility and reality of new – and renewed - life.

The sole reading from the Hebrew Scriptures today is Psalm 4. It is possible to read it as a Messianic Psalm, reflecting Jesus' outlook and prayer, but only if we take a very literal approach to the link between the Hebrew Scriptures and Christ, as in the ditty: 'The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed'. When we consider how Jesus immersed himself in books like the Psalms and Isaiah in seeking God's will for his life and ministry, though, this may not be such a stretch (compare Luke 24.44 in today's Gospel). Certainly, the Apostles scoured the Hebrew Scriptures – their initial Bible – in seeking a fuller understanding of Jesus the Christ.

Our second lectionary Epistle (third reading), from I John, also has a very different focus from the Luke and Acts readings. It has some wonderful parts, as in I John 3.1 (GNB): 'See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children – and so, in fact, we are.'

But our focus today will be on the fourth and first lectionary readings, in that order. Luke the Evangelist, the traditional writer of both Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, appears to have been either a Greek (Gentile) or Hellenic Jewish physician from Antioch in ancient Syria who was a companion and co-worker of Paul. His accurate attention to detail has led many modern scholars such as archaeologist Sir William Ramsay to describe him as 'a historian of the first rank'.

Challenge to faith

In the early verses of our Gospel Jesus appears to his Disciples just after two of them have recounted their experience with him on the road to Emmaus. Jesus challenges the group's reluctance to believe and invites them to look at his hands and feet. But, we read, 'They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder' (Luke 24.41, GNB). Jesus then seeks to ground their faith by sharing their cooked fish.

We, too, often struggle with the mysteries of our faith. Whether it is the complexities of how the Scriptures came into being, or questions surrounding the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, our minds are stretched to cope with the suprarational and our hearts to believe what does not come easily to a generation told repeatedly there is no God.

The Scriptures are fulfilled

Jesus reminds his disciples that for some three years he has been teaching them that everything written about him in the Law, Prophets and Psalms had to come true. In v45 we read that 'he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures'. At the very least this implies they were now more prepared – in the light of experiencing a risen Christ – to make the connections they could not before. Or is something more implied? Is this some gift of understanding akin to the gifts of the Spirit given to the early Church?

We remember how Cleopas and his companion said to each other: "Wasn't it like a fire

burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” There have been many testimonies in Church history of those who have felt their hearts ‘strangely warmed’. For John Wesley, this was on hearing a Moravian read Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans at a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London. His journal entry continues: ‘I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given to me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.’

I have had enough mystical experiences for which I have no rational explanation that I am unwilling, like many of my peers, readily to write off miracles and the supernatural. It is true that I do not believe many things easily – I wrestle with so much – but neither am I as quick to disbelieve as many of my contemporaries seem to be, even within the Church.

Witnesses to a risen Christ

In v46, 47 Jesus tells his Disciples that the Scriptures say “the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem”. In the final verse of our Gospel, Jesus states: “You are witnesses of these things.”

It is sometimes difficult to remember that the Acts of the Apostles is the sequel to Luke’s Gospel. Whether all written by Luke, or kick-started by Luke or his circle and completed by their Christian community, we cannot ignore the intent of this continuity. So, when we come to Peter’s message in Acts 3.12-20, we can readily note its connection with our Luke 24 reading. Peter sees himself as fulfilling what Jesus spoke to him and the other Disciples on that earlier occasion, about being a witness to the risen Christ. Peter attributes the healing of the lame beggar, witnessed by many of them, to the God of the Hebrew Scriptures and his Servant Jesus. Peter preaches of Jesus’ unjust death and his resurrection, and identifies himself and his fellow Disciples as witnesses to these events. He then calls on his hearers to repent and turn to God for forgiveness.

Each of us as Christians will wrestle with what it means for us to be Christ’s witnesses – this may well vary with circumstance and personality. As in all matters, we do well not to point the finger at others (it has been noted that when we do that there are three fingers pointing back at ourselves!) Those who are new or renewed in faith may sometimes lack wisdom but are often more enthusiastic and successful in sharing the faith than those of us who have become more settled into a church culture. A neighbour in Adelaide was criticised by some in the church for not teaching Sunday School or taking some other leadership role. That neighbour, whose faith was new and fresh, invited many friends to morning coffee and simply shared the difference Christ had made in her life, with the result that many of them came to a personal faith in Christ. Many ways of being Christ’s witnesses may involve helpful acts and attitudes rather than words. St Francis is supposed to have instructed his followers: ‘Preach the gospel at all times, and use words when necessary.’

*Lord, we confess to often feeling inadequate as your witnesses. Encourage us and help us to find fruitful ways of sharing your love and our faith, we pray.
Amen.*

Photo Reflection



Photo Jane

Macqueen

Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

1. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

- **A nourishing feast of Creativity and Fun!
27-29 April 2018.
With Rod Pattenden and Trish Watts**

2pm-5pm Saturday 28 April 2018 "Play with the 5 Freedom Paths- storytelling, movement, singing, silence and connection" \$25

Sunday 8 and 10am Services:

'Sparks of Life': ...sustaining creative lives

Sunday 730pm -9pm: **'Sanctuary': Where heaven touches earth - uplifting & peaceful songs for inspiration, meditation & community joy.** *Entry by donation*

To register interest, contact Susanna: 0418 637 469 Susanna.pain@gmail.com

- **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**

2. 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.

3. 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.

NEW OPPORTUNITY: Zena will soon be offering Spiritual Direction and Supervision from the Anglican Church in Drouin. Contact Zena via the website below.

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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