

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 1 April 2018



Photo, Karena

King

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 1st April 2018.

**Christ
He**

is

is

Risen

risen.

indeed.

**Alleluia!
Alleluia!**

As we awake this Easter morning may all experience anew the joy of Jesus greeting you by name as he greeted Mary. Whether you will worship with your faith community or have time alone or with family, may you once again be part of the never ending story of the resurrection that David Head shares for us in his reflection this morning.

This the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Luke 24.34; Psalm 118.24

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:

- For all communities of faith in our country and around the world as they come together to celebrate Easter.
- 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

Brightness of God's glory,
whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison:
as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
help us to share your immortality in the Spirit;
let no shadow of the grave terrify us,
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
as the First and the Last,
the Living One,
our immortal Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection

THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

Reflection by The Reverend David Head, Rector, St Mary's Morwell and Servant Leader of the Anam Cara Community.

Now today, Easter Day, in the Christian Story ought to be the happiest of happy endings. Jesus, who had suffered such antagonism and rejection throughout his ministry, culminating in the awful story of his torture and crucifixion, this Jesus had now been gloriously vindicated. God had raised him from the dead. This supernatural event proclaimed to the world that Jesus was truly the Son of God and was the long-awaited Messiah, the anointed One of God. Jesus had triumphed over death and the ultimate power of sin. What a wonderful time now to say "The End" – and all lived happily ever after! It is a very curious reality that each one of the Gospel writers- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John- seems to have difficulty knowing how to end their Gospel stories after this triumph of Easter - and probably it is precisely because of the extraordinary and supernatural triumph of Easter!

Mark's Gospel has a notorious non-ending. Mark never actually reports that the disciples saw the risen Christ. An Angel at the tomb tells the three women who have come to anoint Jesus' body that Jesus has risen and will be there to meet the disciples back in Galilee, which was nearly 150km of hard walking away! The angel tells the women to go back and tell the disciples about the risen Christ who is waiting to meet them. And then Mark paradoxically says that they didn't tell anyone! What an apparently inglorious non-ending!

Today's Gospel from Matthew Ch 28 (set for the Easter Vigil and First mass of Easter) tells us a bit more. The women do report that they have seen the risen Lord to the disciples. However, when the disciples go to meet the risen Lord in Galilee, he tells them to stop looking dazed and amazed and to get on with telling the Good News! They are to go out immediately and make disciples of all nations.

Luke's Gospel is actually part of a two volume work, including The Acts of the Apostles. So, the Book of Acts may be seen as a very extended long ending to Luke's Gospel. Luke tells of the Resurrection and then goes on to tell the glorious, and at times not so glorious, story of the early church. But it is not so glorious really! Indeed, much of it is not so glorious. It begins very early in the piece with the suicide of Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus, then not long after comes the stoning of the first Christian martyr, Stephen. This is followed soon after by the beheading of James, who was the brother of Jesus and the first leader of the Church in Jerusalem. We then hear of disagreements between the disciples about who should be allowed in and who should be kept out of this new 'ecclesia' or 'Church'. Jesus' own disciples seem to be really conservative, when Jesus was clearly the opposite and

very inclusive. Indeed, it is the newly converted Jewish Christians like Paul and Barnabas who seem to be the most outgoing and radical. The book of Acts ends not so gloriously either with Paul sitting in prison in Rome waiting for his own coming martyrdom.

Then there is the ending of the Gospel of John. It too seems to have trouble ending. There are several stories of Resurrection appearances by Jesus to his disciples. Directly after the Resurrection, Jesus' disciples are depicted as being back at work fishing. Hardly the picture we have of eager disciples venturing out into the world with the joy of the risen Lord in their hearts and telling everybody about it. They seem to be dispirited and lost as to what to do, so they go back to their old profession of fishing. Of course, this is what people often do when they have suffered a great trauma or loss or death of a loved one. Well-meaning friends too often say that the best thing to do is to "Get busy and get back to normal".

It is certainly easier for the friends if you do that! And this is what the disciples are doing. They have suffered the grief and loss of the shattering torture and death of their beloved leader, the one they truly believed was the Messiah, the anointed one of God. He seemed to have risen, but then he had disappeared again. What were they to do? They probably said to each other let's just get back to our work of fishing. Then the risen Christ appears to them by the lakeside as they fish. He calls out to them "It's not over. It's just beginning. I ask you, do you truly love me? Yes? Then if you do love me you will continue my work and get out and about and feed all my lost sheep. Then Jesus says to them "Come and follow me". These words were in fact some of the very first words that Jesus had said to his disciples. Now he says them again. Perhaps you can see that the writer of John's Gospel wants us to know that the story is not ending but beginning all over again! It is a never-ending story. We have to keep retelling and reliving these wondrous and disturbing and miraculous events because they are part of a never-ending story in which we live and have our own part to play. Jesus is, in effect, asking us: "Are you just going to go back to work next week as if nothing has happened, or are you going to let the power of the Resurrection fire your soul with my ongoing ministry of love and compassion and life-giving hope to the world?"

Photo Reflection



The never ending story... new life. Photo Ross Byrne

At times we can all feel a little like the car in the photo. Take heart, beauty from brokenness...

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

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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