

Anam Cara Community

## ***Waterholes: 3 March 2018***



Photo Jane

Macqueen

*Continue to take time this Lenten Season to intentionally notice the wonder of small things.*

## **Welcome**

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 4th March 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.

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## Community News

### **Anam Cara Community Library**

If you have finished reading Anam Cara Community library books which you borrowed, they may be returned at the Celtic Day [on 17 March](#).

They may also be returned by mail to PO Box 928, Sale 3850, or taken to the Registry Office in Raymond Street, Sale (opposite Aldi) – or give them to your Rector to take to the Registry Office next time they're there!

We hope that you enjoyed your reading. Thank-you.

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## Coming Events

It is only **2 weeks** until our first Quiet Day for 2017. Consider setting aside the day to intentionally spend time nourishing your spirit in the Celtic theme.

**Please RSVP to help with our organising...**

**Travel:** It will be good to car pool for the day so if you would like to come but need a lift please contact me.

### **Celtic Quiet Day**



Led by:

**Carol O'Connor** - Poet, teacher and book seller

and

**Cath Connelly** - Spiritual director and harpist

on

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 A'Beckett Rd, Bunyip

9.30am – 3.30 pm

What to bring: **Lunch to share.**

Tea/coffee/water & Morning Tea provided.

**Cost: \$10.00**

***RSVP** and for further details, contact:*

*Bunyip parish office: [anglicanbunyip@dcsi.net.au](mailto:anglicanbunyip@dcsi.net.au) or*

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

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## **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:

- 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.

- Carol and Cath as they prepare for the Quiet Day.
- 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 particularly the families of those killed and injured in the recent school shooting.
- 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 our God,  
 by your Holy Spirit  
 write your commandments upon our hearts  
 and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross,  
 so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness,  
 we may become a living temple of your love;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## **Reflection**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

### **CHRIST IS GOD'S POWER AND WISDOM - The Rev'd Chris Venning**

Exodus 20.1-17      Psalm 19      I Corinthians 1.18-25      John 2.13-22

As we grow older most of us become increasingly aware of our human fragility and ignorance. For Christians this is a two-edged sword. It is difficult to lose a measure of our strength and independence, as it is also to realise we do not have clear answers to so many of the dilemmas we face in life and faith. On the other hand, our faith journey benefits from an increasing dependence on the power and wisdom of God. As I write this I am facing the probability of surgery on both shoulders that will severely limit my daily functioning and mobility for more than six months. The prospect of these limitations also brings with it dilemmas I'll face as an independent single person. For some months after retiring from my ministry as an aged care chaplain in Launceston Tasmania, I had recurring nightmares in which I was trying to escape via the rooftops from a secure aged care ward. Whatever else it may have meant, this spoke of a fear of losing my independence.

Today's lectionary readings address key Hebrew theological concepts of law and creation, and key Christian faith issues of Christ as God's power and wisdom, and his ministry among the Jews. I noticed, with a sense of irony, that my last *Waterholes* reflection (October 8, 2017) had included lectionary readings from Exodus 20 and Psalm 19. Today,

however, I'm reflecting on these passages through very different Gospel and Epistle (binocular?) lens.

### **Exodus 20.1-17**

Along with the second giving of the law in Deuteronomy 5, this passage provides the classic form of the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments at the heart of the Torah which underlay so much of the teaching of the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament, as Christians came to call it). Many of us learned to recite the Ten Commandments in a simplified form in the home, School RE classes or Sunday School. With a little time, we could probably list them today, if not in the traditional order. It has often been pointed out how significant they have been in shaping the laws under which Western society continues to operate today. The first three relate to God – worshipping no other god, not making or worshipping idols, and not misusing God's name. We could add the fourth, as the Sabbath is to be dedicated to the LORD. The remaining six relate to personal and social morality – honouring your/our parents, not murdering, not committing adultery, not stealing, not accusing falsely, and not coveting your/our neighbour's spouse or belongings. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus noted such commandments should be observed from the heart, not only in outward action.

### **Psalm 19**

Our psalm is far from the longest, but is one of the most comprehensive in the way it draws together God's creation and law (power and wisdom). Some of our parents in the faith used to speak of the twin books of God's revelation – Creation and the Bible (or law). Our psalm highlights how the creation reveals God's glory – at least a partial explanation of the mystical awareness of God (or gods) found among nations never exposed to the Judaeo-Christian Bible. Similar might be said of God's law – as creation witnesses to a Creator, there seems to be a code of morality inscribed on the human heart, even in the absence of the Bible or law. It might be said we are doubly blessed in our levels of revelation, but perhaps that brings with it extra layers of responsibility.

### **I Corinthians 1.18-25**

If Christ is the subject and focus of the New Testament and Christian faith, the Apostle Paul has been hugely instrumental in shaping Christian theology as we have been taught it. In this passage of his First Letter to the Corinthians Paul emphasises **Christ is God's power and wisdom**. Paul was the spiritual parent of this church and was aware of its strengths and weaknesses. It was not impervious to the immorality that pervaded the wider city, the capital of the Roman province of Achaia (modern Greece). Like the city, the church was far wealthier than most – enabling generosity to the needy but tempting to pride and independence. Such also was true of the church and city's culture, gifts and learning, which held great potential but also temptation to pride. It was obviously significant that Paul was emphasising to this particular church that **Christ is God's power and wisdom!**

We, too, are invited to trust in God's and Christ's power and wisdom rather than our own. Many have turned to the kenotic theology of Philippians 2.6-11 (Christ's 'self-emptying' or voluntary limitation of divine prerogatives such as omnipotence and omniscience) as an explanation of how he could be simultaneously truly divine and human. In Paul's hands even this kenosis (self-emptying) becomes a reason for imitating Christ (Philippians 2.5). Rather than relying on his (eternal and divine) omnipotence and omniscience, Paul teaches, Christ trusted in God's power and wisdom - so should the Philippians, and so should we!

### **John 2.13-22**

Our Gospel provides another interesting perspective on Christ's humanity and divinity. Just before the Passover, Jesus enters the Temple in Jerusalem, and finds vendors of animals and birds for sacrificial offerings and moneychangers conducting their business. Jesus drove out the animals and overturned the tables of the moneychangers, rebuking them for making a marketplace of his Father's house (v15, 16). This activity would appear to have been in the outer court of the Temple (the Court of Gentiles), beyond which non-Jews were not permitted, thereby discriminating against them in particular. I remember as a Sunday School student struggling with the image of Jesus taking such violent action – it seemed to contradict all else I was taught about him! Predictably, the Jewish authorities tackled him about the event: "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?" (v18) Predictably, too, this Gospel focuses on Jesus' mysterious and mystical response, speaking of his death and resurrection (v19-21).

Which brings us back to Paul: 'Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom. As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles; but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God.' (I Corinthians 1.22-24)

Creation and law, power and wisdom – our readings have ranged far, but ultimately they find a focus in Christ, the power and wisdom of God!

***Lord, teach us to trust in your power rather than our own strength, and help us to learn all we may from Christ, who is your power and wisdom. Amen.***

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## Photo Reflection



The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Photo Jane

Macqueen

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## Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

### 1. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

- **Breathing Space for Lent - 5.30pm - 6.00pm** in the Cathedral, Monday - Thursday. All welcome to pop in for some silent reflection, thanksgiving, intercession.
- **The many faces of St Paul: Messenger, Christ follower, the Church's Apostle**

A lecture and workshop by New Testament scholar  
**Dr Kieren Williams**

**Saturday 17 March 2018, 1.30pm - 4.30pm**

St Paul's Cathedral, Delbridge Hall, Cunninghame St, Sale

**Sunday 18 March preaching at 8am and 10am**

entry to workshop is by donation, \$10-\$20 suggested  
RSVP [susanna.pain@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.pain@gmail.com) 0418 637 469

Rev. Dr. Kieren Williams is an ordained minister with the United Church of Canada. As a community minister, she worked and lived in a neighbourhood that struggled with the impact of poverty and racism, and in collaboration with her neighbours, they sought to live their faith in justice and compassion through advocacy, community programming, and spiritual support. She was also a professor in New Testament at Emmanuel College which is the United Church seminary, part of the University of Toronto. For health reasons, she had to retire early, and now enjoys travelling, writing, lecturing, gardening, and supporting various social justice causes.

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.basshillhermitage.com.au) for more information.

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## **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)
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Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen  
On behalf of the Servant Leaders

*APBA & NRSV portions, TiS hymns 'Reprinted with permission.  
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