

**Anam Cara Community**



## ***Waterholes: 21 July 2018***



Millstream Falls, Atherton Tablelands. Photo, Julie Brackenreg.

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 22nd June 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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## Coming Events

Date for your diary...

### Quiet Day

25th August

St Mary's Morwell

Led by: The Rev'd David Head

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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 registry staff, Brian, Annette, Sue and David.
- Bishop Richard Treloar following his consecration and as he prepares to be installed as the thirteenth Bishop of Gippsland on 18th August. Prayers for Bishop Richard, his wife Leanne and children Rachel and Nicholas.
- The Registry staff, Phillip Muston and Dean Susanna as they prepare for Bishop Richard's Installation.
- Associates and friends who have asked for prayer: Norma, June, Fiona Barry, Chris Venning and Val Lawrence.
- For our churches to be places of inclusion, welcome and reconciliation.
- For peacemakers in our world. For world 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**

Eternal God,  
author of our life and end of our pilgrimage:  
guide us by your word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations,  
that we may not wander from your way,  
but may run our course in safety  
until we come to our eternal rest in you;  
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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## **Reflection**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1–14a Psalm 89:21–38 Ephesians 2:11–22 Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

### **Household of God**

This week's readings celebrate God's loving vision for healing, wholeness, and unity. In this Season after Pentecost, we are invited into deeper reflection on what this vision means for the life of the church.

In Ephesians 1, we read words of blessing and thanksgiving for God's glory made known through the love of Christ – a love that unites all creation. Ephesians 2 begins with a reminder of God's unconditional grace. This reminder sets up today's reading – a discussion on why Jews and Gentiles are reconciled in Christ. The writer likens both Jews and Gentiles to equal members of a divine household – together forming a dwelling place for God.

The message of this letter suggests some of the Jews and Gentiles in the churches who are the recipients of this letter did not embrace reconciliation with one another. In fact, there is animosity between them. In Ephesians 2:11, the writer uses a derisive term used by Jewish people to describe Gentiles: "the uncircumcised." This wasn't just a physical descriptor, but a statement implying that the Gentiles did not quite measure up to being a part of God's chosen people. Judaism taught that circumcision was a necessary act to show one was a part of God's covenant. The writer claims that while once Gentiles were "strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (2:12), Christ's sacrifice has brought them into the "commonwealth of Israel" (2:12). This political language creates an important contrast for the ancient hearer between the commonwealth created by the Roman Empire, which promised peace through sacrifice to Caesar, and the commonwealth of God, which promises peace because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

In a culture where sacrifice served as currency for appeasement of ruling powers and gods, the writer makes a transformational claim in stating that the death of Jesus could draw Jews and Gentiles into one community and end the racial, cultural, and religious animosity between the two groups – these were radical ideas, indeed. In the same way that it takes more than changes in law to address the underlying causes of social, political, and cultural discord today, the Christian community to whom the letter was written needed more than a legal justification for breaking down walls between them; they needed to experience a spiritual transformation to overcome their differences. Such a transformation can be possible through the faithful breaking down and rebuilding of community. Just as the dividing wall between them is broken down, the writer calls these “citizens with the saints” (2:19) to build up the household of God on the foundation of the very prophets that foretold the deliverance of the Jewish people, the apostles who proclaimed Christ’s redeeming love, and the reconciling cornerstone of Jesus himself. Together, they are called to become a holy temple, a spiritual home for God.

2 Samuel 7:1–14a describes the promise that God’s reign will be established by and filled with David’s descendants – a family that Ephesians broadens by welcoming Gentiles into the family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Psalm 89:21–38 we find celebration of the covenant, the foundation of God’s house and family of Israel.

As crowds rush to Jesus to be healed in Mark 6:30–34, 53–56, we have another picture of the house and family of God extending to include all.

The church is called to be an extraordinary place, a place of inclusion and reconciliation, where divisions are demolished, strangers become family, aliens become citizens, a place where the excluded and disenfranchised are welcome. That’s a tough call, but through the redeeming love of Christ and the powerful reconciling spirit of God, it is possible. Where do you see the weaving of differences that is leading toward balance and wholeness?

**Reconciling God, in Christ we are no longer divided.**

**times when we have put borders between ourselves.**

**united**

**family,**

**ving in ways that your love and grace are visible to the world. Amen.**

**Forgive us for the**

**May we, in you, become**  **a**

**li**

Material from *Seasons of the Spirit* - [SeasonsFUSION](#) a resource for congregations

published by Mediacom Education Inc.

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## Photo Reflection



Winter sky, Warragul. Photo Jan

McIntyre

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## Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

### 1. The Abbey

#### Winter Feast at the Abbey

12 noon

**Saturday 11th August**

Come and celebrate with other Friends of The Abbey as we enjoy the gourmet creations of chef,

**Bishop Jeffrey Driver**

4 course meal, with wine: \$58 per person

## **Diocesan Retreat**

**7-8 September 2018**

Retreat Leader

### **Bishop Garry Weatherill**

Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat

Come on retreat and savour the beauty and peace of The Abbey on Raymond Island.

Bishop Garry is an experienced retreat leader, greatly loved and respected among many who appreciate his teaching and spiritual wisdom.

There will be times for silence, prayer and reflection, times for learning together, times to walk, to share, to create, to be.

ALL ARE WELCOME

5pm Fri 7 September 2018 – 3.30pm Sat 8 September 2018

Cost per person

Residential: incl. dinner Fri, breakfast & lunch Sat

twin/share accommodation: \$135

single accommodation: additional \$35

Non residential: incl. dinner Fri, Breakfast & Lunch Sat: \$85

**To book or further information contact The Abbey**

**Phone (03)5156 6580 Email: [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au) [www.theabbey.org.au](http://www.theabbey.org.au)**

## **2. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.**

- 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

## **3. 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.

#### **4. 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.**

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

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