

Waterholes: 13 October 2018

Reflecting on the shores of the Abbey, Raymond Island. Photo, Jane Macqueen.

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 14 October 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 event:

Annual Thanksgiving Service for the Anam Cara Community

**Saturday 24th November
St Paul's Cathedral Sale**

All are invited to a Thanksgiving eucharist as we come to the end of the church year. There will be opportunity within the service for silent reflection and thanksgiving.

"We can wait for joy, but we can also cultivate it in our lives through practising prayer, gratitude, celebration and enjoyment. We can begin and end each day by looking for the good in that day, by thanking God for moments of peace, experiences of beauty, times of intimacy, or opportunities to play." Dean Susanna

- Service at [11.00am](#)
- Everyone is welcome
- A light lunch will be provided after the service
- Dean Susanna will lead a reflection and time of thanksgiving during the service
- RSVP appreciated to assist with our catering
 - RSVP: Jane - jemacqueen@gmail.com - [0411316346](tel:0411316346)

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 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:

- Bishop Richard, Leanne and Rachel and Nicholas as they continue to settle in to their new home, community, workplaces and school.
- The registry staff, Brian, Annette, Sue and David.
- Tracey Lauersen, husband Sven and Abby and Freya as they prepare to leave Melbourne for the parish of Warragul.
- For locums and lay readers in their ministries in parishes without clergy.
- Associates and friends who have asked for prayer: Norma, June, Fiona Barry, Chris Venning and Val Lawrence.
- For all who are suffering as a result of extraordinary weather events, typhoon, hurricanes, drought, fire, heatwaves. The people of Sulawesi following the earthquake and tsunami.
- 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

Merciful God,

in your Son you call not the righteous

but sinners to repentance:

draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction,

and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant,

that seeking your truth,
and obeying your will,
we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus our Saviour;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Season's of the Spirit prayer

God of life, you call us to give ourselves to you.
Sometimes we cannot imagine your possibilities.
Sometimes we value our possessions more than we value your love and promises.
Sometimes we do not want to give up anything.
Help us to live more faithfully as your followers.
Challenge us to risk ourselves.
Show us what we need to give up to be closer to you. **Amen.**

Reflection

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10.17-31

Reflection: The Rev'd David Head, Rector, St Mary's Morwell and Anam Cara Servant Leader

ECONOMICS AND ETERNAL LIFE

As Jesus walks along the way with his disciples, an apparently successful entrepreneurial young man comes up to Jesus enquiring about “eternal life”. He wants to engage Jesus in deep theological discussion which is of course to be highly commended as very few of today’s successful young men would even consider the issue of eternal life even being relevant to them. Curiously, Jesus does not really answer the young man’s question nor engage in a discussion about eternal life. Instead, Jesus commends to the young man the keeping of the Ten Commandments first. The young man very devoutly replies that he has kept all of the Ten since his youth. This is a pretty amazing achievement for anyone let alone a successful wealthy young man! Jesus clearly believes him because he looks into the eyes of the young man and loves him for who he is.

Clearly this man is unusually spiritual and likeable. Then Jesus says to him: “Go, give all you have to the poor and needy and then come and follow me.” Clearly the implication here is that this action will then assure him of eternal life. The young man is absolutely flabbergasted and shocked. He is not able to do this freely and, so, he walks away sad and sorrowful because he has such great possessions. Then comes the most challenging

and confronting of all of Jesus' sayings: "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God. It is indeed easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!" There is not one of us I am sure that feels comfortable with these words. We may not be as rich as that young man, but for most of us, when compared to the vast majority of the world's people, we are richer than most.

It is so hard to be a faithful and committed person of faith when we are surrounded by so many competing demands on our life and when we are surrounded by so many possessions and enjoyable things that we love. The simpler our lives, the more uncluttered our lifestyle, then the easier it is to focus on being at one with God and with God's Creation. It is a great challenge. It is certainly a challenge for me! I am a bit of a collector and hoarder of things. I have lots of things. I enjoy and love to be surrounded by nice things. I have lovely furniture and various other things inherited from my family. I have a lovely big book collection and a very good mineral and crystal collection. Mark and I have a lovely home in Yarram that we have spent many years in renovating. I am not wealthy but I do have many possessions – and that is perhaps like most of us at different levels. It is a challenge not to let these things take over my life and to gradually shut out the deep relevance of God in my life and to be generous and hospitable and caring to others. And I am sure, it is true that the less I have the easier it is. The above Gospel Message is a loving warning from Jesus that he wants us to hear and reflect on.

The disciples of Jesus are shocked by his remarks about wealth and they say to Jesus "Then who can be saved?" And Jesus responds: "For us it is not possible, but for God all things are possible." Isn't this a wonderful promise to always give us heart and hope for ourselves and those we love. We are not self-made men and women. We are all made by God, and any skills and gifts and treasures we have, are to be directly attributable to God's Blessing of life in general. How we each use our gifts and talents is crucial in our spiritual pilgrimage and in the success of our life journey. Help us Lord to be grateful and generous and beneficent with all our gifts and blessings in order to bless ourselves and our families and the wider community around us. Every Sunday, Jesus challenges us with the call of following him in some way. Help us not to be like that lovely young man and just walk away from the challenge because it appears just too hard for us.

Photo Reflection

With David's words in mind reflect on the tree. On living simply. Are there things in your life that you need to shed? Photo, Jane Macqueen

Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

1. The Abbey of St Barnabas, Raymond Island

For further information contact The Abbey

Phone (03)5156 6580 Email: info@theabbey.org.au 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

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 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 or jemacqueen@gmail.com)
- *Secretary / Librarian:* Sue 03 5182 5542
- *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, cherylrussell1@bigpond.com

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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