

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 13 April 2019



Early morning in Metung. Photo,

Alison Macqueen

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 14th April 2019.

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.

Would you like to experience Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction is the gentle art of one person listening to the life experience of another and assisting them to become aware of the presence and love of God in their lives. Spiritual direction assists people to grow in their relationship with God and commitment to prayer.

Jenny Batten recently moved to Sale from Melbourne and is currently in her third year of formation as a Spiritual Director with the Living Well Centre at the Cheltenham Retreat Centre. The Living Well Program consists of both knowledge input and practical experience of giving direction under supervision. The experience of giving direction under supervision is an essential and integral part of the training where students are required to be seeing directees on a regular basis, in order to develop the skills and practices of a spiritual director, and then to reflect on that experience with a trained supervisor. This is like the intern program in some other professions. All students meet regularly with their own spiritual director and are in supervision with a trained supervisor.

Jenny is looking for people who would like to volunteer to spend time as Directees with her as she completes her final two years of training. Each session is for no more than an hour and there is no remuneration for these sessions. Please contact Jenny for more information.

Jenny is available for sessions at her home, 6 Heron Court, Sale.

CONTACT: [0438213382](tel:0438213382)

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:

- Bishop Richard in his leadership and ministry throughout the diocese. Leanne, Rachel and Nicholas.
- The Registry staff, Brian, Annette, Sue, Jill, David, Tim and Richard Connelly.
- All clergy and worship leaders in their preparations for Holy Week and Easter.
- For visitors to our churches this Easter to feel welcomed and included. That all may, 'come as they are' and in the liturgy, in the silences, through worship and conversation connect anew with the God.
- For leaders of churches and nations and for each of us in our daily lives to have conversations that disarm the fear of difference.
- For those who are ill, for the dying and those who sit with them.
- Associates and friends who have asked for prayer: Norma, June, Fiona Barry, Pat Symonds, Chris Venning and Val Lawrence.
- For all programmes working to bring a change in culture and bring an end to violence against girls and women.
- Carmel and Zena as they prepare to sell Bass Hill Hermitage. For wisdom and peace amidst the sadness of this decision and for their ongoing ministry as they await the sale of the property.
- For political leaders to form governments that are committed to justice, inclusion and compassion.
- For all who are suffering as a result of extraordinary weather events, fire, drought, typhoons, hurricanes, heatwaves.
- 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

Everlasting God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son to take our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross:
in your mercy
enable us to share in his obedience to your will
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflection

Passion Sunday - The Rev'd Chris Venning

THE SONG OF CHRIST

Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 31.9-18 Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 22.14-23, 56 (or Luke 23.1-49)

Today is the 6th Sunday in Lent, but also is named Passion or Palm Sunday. On this day in 2005 our Israeli tour leader Jacob, a young Canadian radiologist of Jewish background named Mark, a retired couple from Sydney and I visited Capernaum, sometime home of Jesus, Peter and Andrew, James and John. Alongside the entrance to Capernaum was an ancient Armenian church. A service was underway, and we quietly entered the nave past palm branches. The Sydney couple, who were Catholic, and I sat near the back for a time, then we all quietly made our way out of the church and explored Capernaum. This consists of mainly archaeological ruins, including the synagogue, and two modern churches – Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. In this reflection my focus will be mainly on the Philippians passage, although I will touch on the other lectionary readings listed for Passion Sunday.

Reading **Isaiah 50.4-9a**, we can see why it is widely regarded as a Messianic prophecy – perhaps relating at one level to prophets like Isaiah, but also having reference to the Davidic kings and especially Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek for the same figure). Many people today, including some ministerial colleagues, rule out unpalatable aspects of the atonement and the possibility of the supernatural in miracle and prophecy. I confess to many unresolved questions in such areas, but I would argue strongly for the place of miracle and mystery in both Scripture and our personal faith journey.

We move on to **Psalm 31**, which carries the Hebrew title 'A Psalm of David'. In **v9-18** we again see the possibility of application to Christ as well as King David, although less overtly than in Psalm 22. It is noteworthy how often Jesus quotes the Psalms and the prophet Isaiah, not least because here he finds the clearest teaching about the person and work of Messiah. If David experienced contempt and persecution by his neighbours, how much more was this to be the experience of the Messiah. Even on the cross Christ (Jesus) was to use words from Psalm 22.1 to try to make sense of his suffering: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (NRSV; or 'abandoned', GNB). Later his disciples were to use that Psalm and passages like Isaiah 50 & 53 to interpret the significance of the person they had followed and the events they had witnessed.

Philippians 2.5-11: The Song of Christ

When I began the formal study of theology in 1967 at 20 years of age (can it really be more than half a century ago?) one of my favourite theologians was PT (Peter Taylor) Forsyth. Scottish by birth and partly by education, he served as a Congregational minister and college principal in England. Rarely an easy read, the breadth, depth and subtlety of his

writing well repay the effort. Sometimes called a 'Barthian before Barth', Forsyth came to believe that liberal theology failed to address adequately the moral problem of the guilty conscience. He concluded the only resolution is the atoning work of Christ. Despite the density and intensity of his prose and reasoning, Forsyth had a Luther or CS Lewis-like gift for memorable quotations. An example was his response to people who complained preachers talked over their heads. Forsyth's advice: 'Lift your heads!' My reason for introducing Forsyth today is his relationship to our Philippians reading. Often called 'Carmen Christi' – Latin for 'the Song of Christ' – it is believed by many theologians to have been in part or in toto an early Christian hymn that came to be included in the Letter to the Philippians. This church was the first Paul planted on European soil, and there is strong evidence in the New Testament text that it was his favourite. Our passage is also regarded by many as one of the earliest and most important and influential Christologies, that is, theological statements about the person and work of Christ.

For Forsyth it is the foundation for the kenotic (self-emptying) understanding of Christ. For him and others this explains how the eternal Son of God could become truly human. He did not cease to be God, but willingly set aside, 'emptied himself of' (Philippians 2.7) the Divine qualities such as omniscience (knowing all things), omnipotence (being all-powerful) and omnipresence (being present everywhere). In this way the temptations of the man Jesus of Nazareth were real, as was his learning about God and his own person and work through reading and understanding the Hebrew Scriptures.

The lectionary reading is introduced with the exhortation: 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus' (**Philippians 2.5**, NRSV). There follows the hymn or 'song of Christ' (**2.6-11**), which speaks of how he gave up his Divine power and prerogatives to take the form of a slave and become a man. It highlights his humility and obedience even to the point of death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him as Lord of all.

The lectionary Gospel for Passion Sunday can be either **Luke 22.14-23, 56**(the Lord's Supper, with a verse tacked on where a servant woman in the High Priest's courtyard accuses Peter of having been with Jesus) **or** the much longer **Luke 23.1-49**, that tells of Jesus appearing before Pilate and Herod, and of his crucifixion and death. It's hardly surprising that just a week before Easter, both Gospel readings have a connection with the other three lectionary readings. Today we, in our turn, contemplate the mystery of Christ and the cross, and join with his followers through the centuries in singing 'the song of Christ'.

I'd like to conclude the reflection with another PT Forsyth quotation. It comes from *The Work of Christ*, addressed mainly to students training for the ministry:

Do not tell people how they ought to feel towards Christ. That is useless. It is just what they ought that they cannot do. Preach a Christ that will make them feel as they ought. That is objective preaching. (p. 61)

A concluding prayer:

Lord, as we approach another Easter help us to experience Christ afresh in ways that will bring us healing and help us to feel as we ought. May we approach the mystery that is Christ and his cross with hearts that are humble, minds that are open, and spirits that soar.

We offer our prayer through Jesus your Son our Saviour, Amen.

Photo Reflection



Photo, Jane

Macqueen

Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

1. Anam Cara Community Dates for 2019

[1st June](#) - Quiet Day - St Paul's Cathedral;

[14th September](#) - Quiet Day - St Mary's Morwell;

23rd November- Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral

2. The Abbey of St Barnabas, Raymond Island

Easter Pilgrimage 2019

In the company of God's creation

Share the journey of Easter in a sacred place, a place that speaks of the wonder of God and God's creation: a vulnerable, fragile environment that holds in its embrace those who spend time on its shores. The Abbey - 2 hectares of open bushland, surrounded on three sides by remnant bushland and the shores of the Gippsland Lakes, is a place for reflection, contemplation and walking.

[Thursday 18 April - Monday 22 April 2019](#)

Four nights at The Abbey in well appointed motel style rooms

Maundy [Thursday evening](#) till mid [morning Monday](#)

Cost per person twin share \$262 - includes accommodation and breakfast

Cost per person single \$407 - includes accommodation and breakfast

RSVP: [Monday 8th April 2019](#)

Liturgies, some held at St Peter's by the Lake Paynesville

Others at The Abbey include Maundy [Thursday](#) Eucharist and Foot Washing

Good [Friday Morning](#) Service and afternoon Stations of the Cross

Easter Light Service on Easter Eve and Eucharist on Easter Day

Share with people from the Paynesville congregation and Bishop Richard and his family [on Saturday night](#) and [Sunday morning](#).

For further information contact The Abbey

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

3. St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

Stations of the Cross Exhibition at St Paul's Cathedral.

This exhibition will be open until Easter with local artists having created pieces in various mediums to form the Stations of the Cross. An opportunity for contemplation.

- 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

4. 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.

5. Bass Hill Hermitage

Thinking about making a silent Retreat?

Carmel and Zena are still taking bookings for retreats at the Hermitage but can only confirm and take deposits 30 days in advance in case of a short settlement.

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](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), cherylrussell1@bigpond.com
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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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