

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 21 July 2019



Lake Guthridge, Sale. Photo, Jane

Macqueen

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 21st July 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.

Coming Events

1. The Abbey of St Barnabas

Abbey Feast 2019 - your chefs are the Drouin parish...

Saturday 27th July at 12 noon

Come and celebrate with other Friends of The Abbey

as we enjoy the chefs' gourmet creations

4 course meal, with wine: \$60 per person

For all bookings and further information phone The Abbey on [\(03\) 5156 6580](tel:0351566580) or email info@theabbey.org.au

Funds raised are for The Abbey

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, Leanne, Rachel and Nicholas.
- The Registry staff, Brian, Annette, Sue and David.
- For all Australians to be open to listening to the voice and history of our First Peoples to come to a place of truth and healing.
- 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 people to advocate for the Uyghur population suffering persecution in China. For our Australian Uyghur community.
- 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, Val Lawrence. Thanksgiving for good results for Eli Perryman and improvements in Sue Hopkins health.
- For all programmes working to bring a change in culture and bring an end to violence against girls and women.
- 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

Eternal God,
 you draw near to us in Christ
 and make yourself our guest:
 amid the cares of our daily lives,
 make us attentive to your voice
 and alert to your presence,
 that we may treasure your word above all else.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflection

6th Sunday after Pentecost Rev Chris Venning

MARY AND MARTHA, AND THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Luke 10. 38-42 Colossians 1. 15-20

The focus of this reflection is on today's Gospel and the early verses of the lectionary passage from Colossians.

In 2005 I was fortunate to have 3½ months travelling around the world on long service leave, including several weeks in Israel, in and around Athens, and in Turkey. My travels in Israel helped bring Gospel characters to life. There seemed to be reminders of Jesus everywhere, and certain places recalled various disciples. For example, Capernaum was the town of Peter and Andrew, James and John (and for a time Jesus), and Bethany – just outside Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives – was home to the siblings Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Athens had its Areopagus where Paul preached. In Turkey, too (which approximates to Asia Minor in the New Testament period), I encountered many reminders

of the New Testament. Ephesus of course, with its associations with Paul, John and Mary the mother of Jesus - and others of the seven cities of Revelation, including Colossae and Laodicea near Hierapolis, where we stayed overnight and bathed in the thermal springs.

Martha and Mary have come to be viewed as archetypes of two very different kinds of woman, especially in the Church – Martha down-to-earth, practical, and Mary more of a dreamer and certainly more spiritual. The problem with archetypes is that they leave little room for nuance. Of the two sisters, there is no doubt that it is Martha who has, historically, received bad press. Yet it seems to me that without the Martha types many of our churches would barely function. In a succession of congregations where I have ministered and worshipped it has been such women who have attended to cleaning, flowers, morning tea and a dozen other tasks on Sunday and during the week. They have often been the ones who have visited the sick, fed the hungry, played the organ or piano, taught Sunday school and RE in schools – and reminded the minister of commitments he may have overlooked! However, I very much doubt that Jesus was criticising Martha's practicality as such. Rather, it seems to me he was defending Mary's choice and priority – to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him. Yes, he gently but firmly reminded Martha that in her busyness she was distracted from the more important task, but here I am reminded of Jesus' response to Judas's criticism of Mary anointing his feet with expensive perfume. When Jesus said the poor would always be with them, he was surely expressing not a lack of concern for the poor but a sense of urgency about the shortness of time he would be with them – and was praising Mary for her presence and respect for the significance of the moment. In today's Gospel, Jesus is reminding Martha of something similar – that he will only be with them a short while longer, and that Mary is wise to be learning what she can while she can!

Such an emphasis on the immediacy and importance of Christ segues well to the Epistle. Here, especially in the early verses, we have arguably the most articulate and powerful statement of the supremacy of Christ in the New Testament! It seems likely the letters to the churches at Colossae and Ephesus were written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment, that is, about 60 AD/CE. Many commentators regard Colossians 1. 15-20 - like the Carmen Christi (Song of Christ) of Philippians 2. 6-11 - as an early Christian hymn. Certainly, the language is both lofty and poetic. We see echoes of its imagery and phraseology in some of the creeds of the early Church, and like the best hymns it beautifully balances the elements of worship, theology and mystery:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by

making peace through the blood of his cross.
(Colossians 1. 15-20, NRSV)

One way of reading Luke 10. 38-42 and the above passage from Colossians is to see the Gospel as posing the question of why it was important for Mary to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him, and the verses from Colossians as answering the question by asserting the supremacy of Christ in all things.

I remember reading someone's response to the criticism that Christ is just the Christian's crutch: 'He's not my crutch – he's my life-support!'

A concluding prayer:

Lord God, as we contemplate Christ may we have something of Mary's humility and attentiveness, and may we recognise his grandeur and supremacy. Amen.

Photo Reflection



Lake Guyatt, Sale. Photo Jane

Macqueen

Further opportunities for Spiritual Nurture

1. Anam Cara Community Dates for 2019

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

23rd November- Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral

2. The Abbey of St Barnabas, Raymond Island

For all bookings and enquiries phone The Abbey on [\(03\) 5156 6580](tel:0351566580) or

email info@theabbey.org.a

3. 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 5.30pm Monday - Wednesday

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 once a month on the **4th Tuesday 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

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