

Anglican Parish of Gisborne

Easter 4A
May 3rd 2020

A Service of the Word
in Easter



For use privately
or during the video as broadcast on
www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au

*The Parish of Gisborne would like to acknowledge that we meet on Kulin Nation country.
We pay our respects to Kulin Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to any First
Nations people who are present today.*

We acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.

The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.

Welcome

A warm welcome to our Parish We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship, alas for now, virtually and in prayers at home. We are committed to maintaining our worship together and acknowledge that our Lord reminds us that when two or three are gathered in his name, he is in the midst of us. Even though our gathering is virtual, our intent is corporate. Please feel free to download the video from the Parish website, www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au or Facebook/GisborneAnglican, or share this time of prayer with a loved one at home if appropriate.

With the flattening curve and many other social restrictions due to be wound back in the next few months, it is important that, as a whole Parish, we take this time to begin to look at our strategy to returning to the new 'normal'. I am reminded as I look to this process of how we embraced Water Restrictions during the last major drought that effected all of the State. As a community we embraced the new levels of restrictions that were introduced, and what was Level 1 restrictions has now become the new normal. It will take time to re-establish that new normal.

Entering into this new normal will be a drawn out process, but one that we can approach positively. Certainly, there is going to be some speculation as to how this happens and we will be reliant on our Premier and in turn, the Federal Government for advice and guidance.

From today's readings, which are all about transformation of individual and communities, we are reminded that we have an abundance to share, and with the Lord, we will not lack anything. We have a strong foundation based on the cornerstone that is Christ our Lord. We have many assets in terms of people and property. We are reminded to listen to the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and Gatekeeper. We are to love one another as Jesus loved us. From here, we now need to consider our strategy for beginning again after our own Exodus into the Promised Land post COVID-19.

This Sunday: Easter 4A

Acts 2.42-47

Psalms 23

Good Shepherd

1 Peter 2.19-25

John 10.1-10

Next Sunday: Easter 5A

Acts 7.55-60

Psalms 31.1-5,15-16

Secular Mother's Day

1 Peter 2.2-10

John 14.1-14

Bible references: NRSV bible.oremus.org

Social Isolation Policy

Please maintain all social distancing and isolation policies currently enforced by both the Commonwealth and State Authorities. We will return to a joyful Easter Celebration at a date to be determined, but wish to do so joyfully, together and well.

If you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 5428 4038 or Fr Dennis on 9012 3365

The Greeting

The minister greets the people and says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

Risen Christ,

faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:

teach us to hear your voice

and to follow your command,

that all your people may be gathered into one flock,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:23-24

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,

we come to you in sorrow for our sins,

and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,

and not by the power of your resurrection.

You have revealed yourself as the way to the Father.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,

as faithless and not believing.

You have poured upon us the Spirit of truth:

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,

and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

God, our shepherd,
you make known the power of Jesus
wherever goodness and mercy spread your table
and compassion heals the sick and suffering.
Gather all your scattered children into one fold,
so that in love of one another, they may receive
the rich anointing of gladness in Christ,
who in undying life
is one with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

As we prepare to hear God's Holy Words through the scriptures
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

After each reading

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Acts 2.42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. [NRSV]

based on Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want,
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want,
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear
no evil,

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear
no evil,

For you are with me,

You will comfort me

For you are with me,

You will comfort me,

Comfort me.

Surely goodness and mercy,
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Forever, forever, forever

I Peter 2.19-25

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. [NRSV]

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

'I am the gate,' says the Lord;
'whoever enters by me will be saved.'

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 10.1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his

voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Breaking Open the Word

Rev'd Dennis Webster

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

Refrain.

God has spoken to his people,

Alleluia!

***And His words are words of
wisdom, Alleluia! (*2)***

He who has ears to hear his message,

He who has ears then let him hear.

He who would learn

the way of wisdom,

Let him hear God's word,

Let him hear God's word.

Open your ears, O Christian people,

Open your ears, and hear good news.

Open your ears, O royal priesthood,

God has come to you,

God has come to you.

Israel comes to greet the Saviour,

Judah is glad to see his day.

From East and West the peoples travel,

He will show the way,

He will show the way.

This response is:

Given, broken and shared Lord:
in your mercy, hear us.

Let us pray to the Father through the Son who is close to us now and always.

☞ The Church of Christ

Lord, we thank you for sending us the Great Shepherd, your son, to lay down his life for his sheep and to set us the supreme example to be followed. Help us to live together as one body in Christ, one flock with one shepherd. Help us to see this as our part as you work out your purpose for all people. Teach us, through the voice of your Holy Spirit, to be shepherds in our turn as we feed and care for the flock in your name.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us:

in your mercy, hear our prayer.

☞ Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

Lord, you have taught us that no one is an island, entire of itself; we are all part of the whole world that we live in. We thank you for the gift of communication which has enabled us, albeit imperfectly, to remain connected. We are humbled by the pandemic that we are in, and remind ourselves that the death of any of our fellow humans diminishes us. Let us never ask who is responsible, resist the temptation to assign blame, and as your body, work together in owning and finding solutions.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us:

in your mercy, hear our prayer.

☞ The local community

Lord, you promise a world where those who now weep shall laugh; those who are hungry shall feast; those who are now poor or excluded shall claim your kingdom for their own. Help us to build such a world in the here and now, and let it begin with each one of us. Let us learn to live together in harmony. Give us the perseverance, courage and hope to work towards this as a reality.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us:

in your mercy, hear our prayer.

☞ Those who suffer

Lord, you are a very present help in time of trouble to all those who suffer pain in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those whose pain is acute and grief is raw. We pray for those whose pain is a dread for the future or an ache of longing for the past. We pray for those whose pain will be short in duration, and we pray for those who will have to live with their sorrow for some time to come.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us:

in your mercy, hear our prayer.

¶The communion of saints

Lord, you brought your son through the valley of death to reign with you for all eternity. We bring before you Graham Farley, whose year's mind was Thursday.

Comfort us with your protecting presence, and your angels of goodness and love, that we too may come home and dwell in your house for ever.

We offer our prayers asking that our eyes may be opened and our hearts warmed with faith, saying

**God, life of believers
and glory of the just,
listen in your kindness
to the prayers of your Church,
that those who cry to you in their need
may be sustained and consoled
with the abundance of your blessings.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Intercessions based on resources from *Lay Anglicana*,
a voice for laity throughout the Anglican Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness
and made us a light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We depart in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Toccatà (anon)

Virtual Morning Tea Sunday 10.30 am

<http://bit.ly/GisAngVMT>

or simply PHONE in (video not needed) local call 7018 2005
and enter 4583766065 when prompted

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Join EfM via **ZOOM**

The EfM (Exploring Faith Matters) Group of our parish would like to invite parishioners to join us as we consider the book "Fighting with the Bible – Why Scripture Divides Us and How It Can Bring Us Together" by Donn Morgan.

In times of conflict, the Bible is often used as a club to beat those whose opinions differ from one's own. We recoil from such usage, yet the Bible actually represents many diverse and conflicting points of view. It is like a library, full of books that speak to all sides of every question. Like Christians today, the communities and individuals who wrote the biblical texts often strongly disagree with each other. Ruth and Ezra, Isaiah and Ezekiel, Micah and Joel, Deuteronomy and Daniel, Mark and John... what would they say to each other? Do they have anything in common? Each of these voices is firmly committed to his or her specific view of "the truth," whether it

reflects a particular place or community, a prophet, a style of worship, or an "understanding" of who is in and who is out. The author guides us in considering how we can do justice to this welter of disparate voices. What can the Bible teach us about living together? How can we use it as a powerful resource for understanding and for moving beyond conflict?

We will be discussing this book over 2 sessions – **Sunday May 24th** and **Sunday May 31st** from **3.00pm 'til 5.30pm** via Zoom.

We will give you the joining code and guide you through the process.

If you would like to join us, or read at home, the book can be purchased online through "Amazon", "Booktopia" or "Book Depository", priced from approximately \$7.00 - \$35.00. Delivery can take 3-4 weeks. It can also be purchased as an eBook for \$11.00 - \$14.00.



EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

Study notes have been provided to support the discussion and will be copied for those who would like them.

Please let Debra or Alison know if you are planning on joining the group for this study.

Looking forward to sharing this discussion with you.

Debra and Alison

April raffle in support of "R S P C A" Bushfire relief for injured animals.

Proceeds of the raffle amounted to \$405, and £1 Sterling!

Special thanks to all supporters, donors of prizes and especially to Rosemary Homewood for her organisation, in reality, and virtually.

THE **GATE?** WILL PEOPLE REALLY UNDERSTAND ALL THESE **SHEPHERDING** METAPHORS?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THE "GATE" IS THE DOORWAY TO ALL THAT IS NEEDED FOR THE **ABUNDANT LIFE!**



SO, JESUS IS THE ONE WHO COUNTS THE PEOPLE **ENTERING** AND **LEAVING** THE GROCERY STORE!



JOHN 10:1-10

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Archbishop's Weekly address to the Diocese:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrI5sZBiDpU&feature=youtu.be>
or short link:

<https://bit.ly/ArchbishopWeekly> (*)

In this week's reflection, the Archbishop looks back at Bishop Field Flowers Goe and the experience from the Great Depression on the 1890s.

(*) yes, Archbishop is correct!

Dear ABM family,

Are you ready for some good news?

Join ABM Missioner, Steve Daughtry, for a few minutes as he updates us on some of the good news coming from our Partners.

<https://bit.ly/ABMApril20>



- We might be in lockdown or quarantine but the good work goes on across the world thanks to your love and prayers.
- In Kenya, the church continues to extend love, hope and justice to disadvantaged families.
- In Myanmar, practical love means taking supplies of soap when you deliver a Grain Mill.
- In the Philippines, creative solutions to the lack of Personal Protective Equipment for front-line workers has meant purpose and income for poor communities.
- And in Vanuatu, after Cyclone Harold.....not such good news. But we can help the rebuilding even at this time.

As the ABM family, your prayers and generous love have changed the world and – working with God – that has not stopped.

The church is on the ground in so many places, walking light into places where darkness threatens.

Thanks again for caring.

Thanks for being part of the work of love, hope and justice.