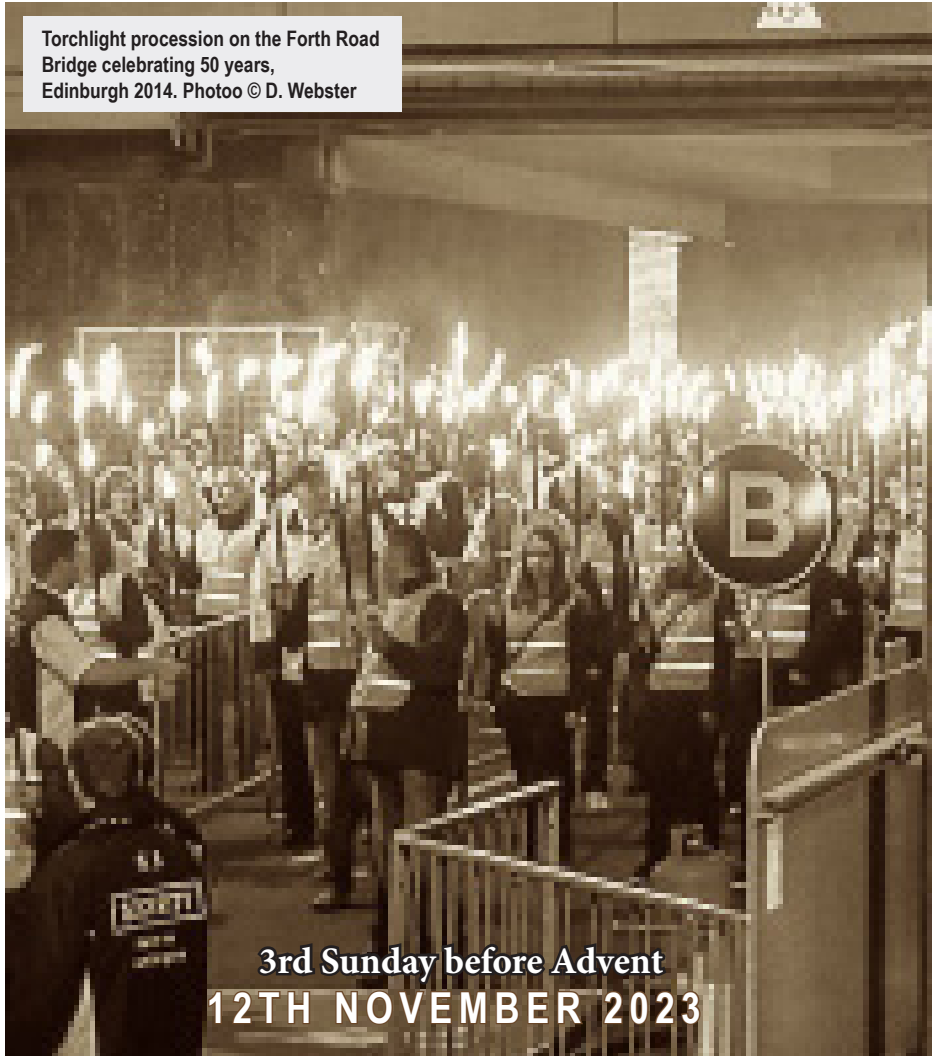


Torchlight procession on the Forth Road
Bridge celebrating 50 years,
Edinburgh 2014. Photo © D. Webster



3rd Sunday before Advent
12TH NOVEMBER 2023

*The Parish of Gisborne acknowledges that we meet on the lands of the
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nations.
We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present
and extend that same 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

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship. You are invited to join us in Holy Communion, whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, please visit our website or ask one of our parishioners.

Thought for the Day

An interesting perspective on the reading today is to consider that the parable of the ten young girls could be read in a very different, literal way.

Firstly, Jesus introduces this parable with the well-known mantra, "The Kingdom of heaven is like." He calls five of the young girls wise, the other five foolish. He places heaven, as he has previously, in the context of a wedding banquet. Like the previous wedding banquet parable, there will be some people excluded on account of their actions.

Let's look at this parable in a more literal sense. The context of the wedding feast suggests that this is all taking place before the festivities begin. Interestingly, the Greek word for a lamp is, in fact, lamp. Young girls would meet the bridegroom and take their place in the bridal procession. At night, they would carry ceremonial lamps or torches. The supply of oil they take would be because a torch lamp, a stick with cloth dipped in oil, would burn very quickly but give off lots of light. So, let's look at it again in a more literal Aussie way!

"If you are going to heaven, you better be sure what you are doing now. There were ten young sheilas; five were bright, and five were a bit thick. They were waiting for the show to start, but like most country weddings, things were running late. When the news went out that it was time to meet the mob, the five dull ones realised their torches would go out, and they had no reserve oil. So they tried to borrow some from the bright girls. They told them how far and even suggested they try a suburb of Melbourne! So, having some dosh, they went off to that suburb to buy some oil, only to find they missed the parade and were locked out. So, don't leave things to the last minute – be prepared and do it now"

The inference of Jesus is to be bright, wise and prudent in all we do. The oil that we burn is our light shining forth in love. If we think we can buy our way into heaven, or just rely on the fact we go to Church think again! It requires you to be prepared. The oil you will have at the time of the banquet is your faith being lived out in thought, word and deed. No amount of membership or birthright will count when it is time. Be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

Readings for 3rd Sunday before Advent

Amos 5.18-24

I Thessalonians 4.13-18

Sunday 12/11/2023

Psalm 78.1-7

Matthew 25.1-13

Readings for 2nd Sunday before Advent

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18

I Thessalonians 5.1-11

Sunday 19/11/2023

Psalm 90.1-8[9-11]12*

Matthew 25.14-30

Texts from A Prayer Book for Australia © Broughton Publishing 1995 Reproduced with permission. Other liturgical material from Common Worship © The Church of England, and Celebrating the Christian Year, Alan Griffiths (2004). Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, NCCA (1990) and used by permission. Hymns licensed CCLI Licence 341440. Prayers based on leading Intercessions by Ray Chapman, Canterbury Press, Norwich 2006, or Janet L Nelson, *Let us Pray*. Bible quotations are from the NRSV, NCCA (1990), used by permission

Gathering Hymn

1 Holy God, we praise your name,
Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth your power proclaim,
all in heaven above adore you;
boundless is your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.

2 Hear the glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
'Holy, holy, holy Lord!'

3 Holy Father, holy Son,
holy Spirit, three we name you,
while in essence only one,
undivided God we claim you,
and adoring bend the knee,
while we own the mystery.

4 King of glory, God's own Son,
humbly our poor nature sharing,
now to save us you have come,
all our sin and sorrow bearing;
you have brought us saving grace,
freed from guilt our sinful race.

5 Spare your people, Lord, we pray,
by a thousand snares surrounded;
keep us free from sin today,
never let us be confounded:
grant us with your saints a place;
all our trust is in your grace.

TiS 127

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

An Acknowledgement of Land and Country is made followed by

The Spirit of God hovered over the water

and brought life to all creation.

Come, Holy Spirit

and renew the face of the earth.

Confession and Absolution

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32.1

We lift our voices, exposing the deepest secrets of our hearts,
and ask God to forgive us our trespasses.

Lord, you delight in creation, its colour and diversity;
but we have misused the earth
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy. **Kyrie eleison**

You have brought order out of chaos,
light in darkness, good out of evil,
but we have preferred darkness
in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.
Christ, have mercy. *or* Christe eleison
Christ, have mercy. **Christe eleison**

You have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging towards others
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy. **Kyrie eleison**

Absolution:

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.

The Collect

In a time of silence,
let us pray that God will enfold us with the Holy Spirit.

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

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

Reading

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Amos 5.18-24

At the end the reader may say

May your word live in us

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 78.1-15

*due to copyright © reasons, the music is unable to be printed this week. TiS 41

**We shall listen, Lord, to your teaching,
and heed the words of your mouth.**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching:
incline your ears to the word of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our forebears have told us.

We will not hide them from their children
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,
and wonders God has wrought.

The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,
the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap,
led them with a cloud in the daytime,
and all the night with a fiery light,

cleft rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,
made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

**We shall listen, Lord, to your teaching,
and heed the words of your mouth.**

Reading

A reading from St Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians.

I Thessalonians 4.13-18

At the end the reader may say

May your word live in us

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 25.1-13

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

An Affirmation of Faith

Today, we share in the an Affirmation of Faith from former Mothers' Union Victoria president, the late Margaret Bradley. We also pray with her former community of Kerang as they recover from the recent floods.

Let us stand to affirm our faith.

I believe in God

Source of life;

Creator of all things everywhere.

I believe in Jesus Christ

Word of life;

born fully human,

sharing our joys and sorrows,
suffering for our sake,
redeeming us by dying on the cross,
defeating Satan and death,
rising again to make us whole.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit
Breath of life;
Indwelling wisdom of God,
Comforter, companion and healer.**

**I believe in the Church Universal to be the body of Christ
commissioned to bear God's love, forgiveness, mercy
and healing to our broken world.**

**I believe in God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
and the promise of life everlasting. Amen.**

Margaret Bradley
1950-2013

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father, who sent the Son to seek and save the lost.
The response to "We will rejoice and be glad in you" is
We will trust in your mercy.

**Remember your Church, O God;
do not let your people forget
your call to serve the world you have created,
but make and keep us faithful to that calling.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

We are the Body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

1. And can it be that I should gain
and interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

2. 'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

3. He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free:
for, O my God, it found out me.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

TIS 209
Charles Wesley
1707-88 alt.

Preparation of the Table

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**As a mother gathers her family,
so do you, our God, gather us about your table.
Make this gathering a place of welcome to the stranger,
of challenge for the strong and support for the weak,
that our communion may be truly that of Christ,
who is alive for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

✕ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Dy - ing you de - stroyed - our death. Ris - ing you - re -
4
stored our life Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Fraction

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world:

grant us your peace.

or...

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world:

grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

God our creator

has given us seed to sow and bread to eat:

and has blessed the fruit of our labour in this Eucharist.

As we seek to give all your children their daily bread,

that the world may praise you for your goodness;

may we all, as one body

gather as one at this Holy Table.

The Lord is calling us all to come:

we draw near with faith.

ANTHEM

Wachet auf (Sleepers, awak).

Post Communion Prayer

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1.17

Gracious God,

in this present age

you admit us into the communion of the age to come.

Let this celebration send us out

as heralds of your gospel and your peace.

Take our hands and work through them;

take our lips and speak through them;

take our minds and think through them;

take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you.

Post Communion Hymn

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2. Still let me feel you near me:
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
and tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

4. Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

TiS 595

With your unwearied grace, O God,
go before us and follow us,
and make us eager in the practice of good deeds
and the blessing of God Almighty:
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you and those whom you encounter
this day, and for ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude at Church of the Resurrection

Elevazione, D Zipoli

Wednesday MidWeek Eucharist
10 am St Paul's
Bishop Brad Billings will be in attendance

Service at the Oaks this Thursday 16th November

2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday 19th November, commencing immediately following the combined Church Service to be held at St Paul's Gisborne commencing at 10am.

Morning Tea to be served following the meeting.

1. **Annual Meeting papers** will be circulated electronically from the 14th November and hard copies available for pick up from the parish office on Thursday 16th November. A limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting on Sunday 19th November. **Please let the Parish Office know if you wish a hard copy of the APM Papers.**

2. Questions arising from the APM Agenda to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office by 3pm on Thursday 16th November.

3. **Nominations for Parish Council and Office Bearers** may be handed to Margarita Caddick (APM Secretary), or to a Church Warden from **2nd November and no later than noon on Friday 10th November 2023.**

Nomination Forms for the Parish Council, Nominations (former Incumbency) Committee and Office Bearer positions can be found on the Parish website – APM Portal. The password for this portal can be obtained by contacting Vicki or one of the Wardens. Hard Copies of the Forms are also available at each Centre.

4. **Parish Worship Centre representatives elected to the Parish Nominations Committee**

The following Parishioners were elected to the Nominations Committee (formerly known as the Incumbency Committee) at the meetings held last Sunday (5/11/23) at each Centre.

	St Paul's	Church of the Resurrection	St John's
Nominator	Graham Dickinson	Alison Kitching	Paul Shorten
Reserve/s	Vacant	Will Tench Margarita Caddick	Mary Duggan

Notice issued on behalf of the Church Wardens – Mary Duggan, Heidi Dixon and Brett Collins

KYBM assistance with Parish Fair

The men's Know Your Bible Group will not meet on the morning of the Parish Fair 18th November and will assist with the setup of the Fair from 7.30 am. A similar arrangement to last year. We look forward to a great day.

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON HERE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HOW ABOUT AT THE END?



"WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER!"



I'LL CONFESS. I GOT STUCK AT "CAUGHT UP IN THE CLOUDS," I'M NOT EVEN GOOD ON A LADDER!



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1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18



COUNTRY SPRING FAIR
Saturday 18th November 2023
10.00 – 2.00PM

Dear Friends,

Our “**Country Spring Fair**” - is just 1 week away with lots for everyone to do.

Cake and Apple Plates are available in each centre. Please fill them up with goodies!

As always, we look forward to working with you over the next week and of course on the day!

Best wishes

The Fair Committee

PURPOSE OF THE FAIR

1. Have Fun
2. Be an outreach to the community,
3. To involve and engage as many people as possible in our parish community
4. Raise much needed funds to support the growth and mission of the Parish.

THEME: Country Spring Fair

VENUE: Cnr Fisher and Brantome Streets

DECORATIONS AND ATTIRE: Floral and colourful.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT OUR FAIR?

1. **HELP ON SET UP DAY - 9.00am, Saturday 11th November.**
 - Clear the hall.
 - Collect requirements and set up in the hall in allocated spaces, including: tables from various parish centres, tubs with materials for specific stalls and signs from the Parish Centre, BBQs and bottles, and anything else that might be required for each stall.
 - Many thanks to Robert Murray for mowing the grass around the hall – not an easy task.
2. **PREPARE** Cakes, Preserves, Plants, Collect Craft, Toys, and order supplies for the BBQ etc.
3. **HELP WITH SET UP ON FAIR DAY FROM 7.00AM** - Marquees. Tables, chairs, decorations, signage.
4. **ADVERTISING:**
 - **FLIERS** will be available for distribution by parishioners in their local community.
 - **INVITE** friends and local communities to the event by personal invitation and on Social Media pages.

5. **VOLUNTEER** to assist on a Stall if you haven't already done so.
 - a. Please indicate your availability for working on a stall on the **Stall Roster** at each centre, or let Alison know by Tuesday so that we have time to plan efficiently.
 - b. Please put your name down - **even if you are a stall co-ordinator or you have always worked on the same stall**. This ensures we know we have enough helpers for each stall, that you have a name tag, and we are aware of who we need to account for in case of emergency.

STALLS

Cakes & Apple Treats, Fruit and Veg, Books, Jams & Preserves, Craft, Raffle, Barbeque & Drinks, Toys, Plants, Animal Farm and Pony Rides.

6. **Make a FINANCIAL DONATION** to cover the costs and contribute to the Fair. **Many thanks to those who have so kindly made donations.**

Donations can be made, preferably, via our Bendigo Bank Account – Anglican Parish of Gisborne General Account BSB 633 000 Account Number 198 264 681 - please indicate as a Fair Donation, or handed to Alison, Sonia, Mary or Debra, or drop it into the Parish Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

7. **RAFFLE:** We have some lovely prizes:
 - a. **A beautiful, knitted rug** valued at \$200, Some **Paramoor** Wine valued at \$100.00 and a **Hydrangea** valued at \$30. You might like to provide or source another prize to add.
 - b. **Raffle booklets of 10 tickets - \$5.00 per ticket** will be available at each centre - please take a booklet – or many - and sell as many tickets as you can. Money and ticket stubs should be returned to Alison, Debra or Mary, or to the Parish Office as soon as possible or at the latest, Saturday at the Fair.

8. **CAKE AND APPLE STALL:** Plates with labels for placing cakes, biscuits, slices, apple pies, apple turnovers, crumble, and strudels etc., are available at each centre this weekend. Please take as many plates as you think you can fill up. This stall is very well supported so we need LOTS of produce to be available for sale. **Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegan and Vegetarian** products are often requested. Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian and Dairy Free Labels will also be available from Alison or on the day of the fair.

It is very important that you complete the label advising buyers of the ingredients, especially if your items contain nuts. Please note that Health and Safety regulations prevent us from selling produce on re-used plastic and re-used poly-styrene trays.

9. **IDENTIFYING NUMBERS.** Labels for cakes, apple treats and jams, preserves and sauces include a yellow circle into which you can add your allocated producer number. The list of Numbers from previous years are displayed at each centre. You can use the same number on all your products – jams, cakes, apple treats. If your name is not on the list, please contact Alison directly or via the Parish Office.

10. JAMS, RELISHES AND SAUCES: As always, we need lots and lots please. Any

Strawberry, indeed, all kinds of berry jams, quince, apricot, and fig jam are very popular. Lemon and Lime jams and marmalades will be gratefully appreciated. **All sauces** (especially tomato) and relishes are very popular too.

Don't forget your labels! Labels for **Jams and Sauces** are available at each centre this weekend. **Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian and Dairy Free** Labels will also be available from Alison. If you would like your labels custom made to your recipe. Please contact Alison directly or via the Parish Office with the name of the preserve, ingredients, date of making and the number of the labels you need.

11. PLANTS: Mary Duggan is looking forward to your deliveries of the many plants that have been offered. Please bring them to the stall, preferably on Saturday morning the 18th but if not to the Hall on Friday the 17th. We are also looking for wheelbarrows for displaying our plant stall on the day. Please let Mary or Alison know if you can help. We are hopeful that everything will be blooming in time for the Fair. Please contact Mary directly or via the Parish Office if you have any questions.

12. TOY: Janine & Keith McDougall are collecting puzzles, bikes, scooters, skateboards, Lego, Board games (with all the pieces), toy trains, dolls, and doll clothes in good condition to make our toy stall fabulous. Please drop them into the parish centre or contact Janine and Keith directly or via the Parish Office.

13. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRED to support the Fair Effort:

- ~~Wheelbarrows to display plants~~ - **Not required this year unless you want to sell one!!**
- A Raffle Prize
- Eskys for food storage

Thank you again for all you are doing for our Fair and the ongoing life and outreach of our parish.

Alison

On behalf of the Fair Committee

Parish Office contact Details

Email: office@anglicanparishgisborne.org.au

Phone: 5428 4038



ANGLICAN PARISH OF
GISBORNE

MACEDON | RIDDELLS CREEK | GISBORNE



A COUNTRY
Spring
FAIR

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18 2023
10 AM - 2 PM

IN THE PARISH HALL
CNR FISHER & BRANTOME ST. GISBORNE