

Anglican Parish of Gisborne

Easter 6A  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

A Service of the Word  
in Easter



For use privately  
or during the video as broadcast on  
[www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au](http://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](http://www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au) or Facebook/GisborneAnglican, or share this time of prayer with a loved one at home if appropriate.*

From the Vicar

I'd like to start by expressing very deep gratitude for the wonderful support over the past few weeks, and for the prayers, cards, messages, gifts and love received at the time of the passing of my mother. On behalf of all the family, we have been so moved and comforted. Thank you.

The path out of COVID-19 restrictions has been laid out by the Premier, and then interpreted in terms of the Diocese by the Archbishop in consultation with DHHS. The 'road map' may not please some people but it is a cautious path back to a new 'norm' that will help protect the community against this nasty bug. One of the areas where we must be vigilant is that cooler, damper weather does provide an ideal climate to allow community transmission. In addition to COVID-19, it will soon be 'flu season. The Parish is right to be cautious and diligent in control measures. Our path (2.5) is to be found on pages 11 and 12 of the pew bulletin.

One of the community campaigns being used is "We're all in this together." It may be an ear-worm for many! This week's Gospel also highlights a few words that remind us that our Lord is also with us. We are not abandoned or orphaned. The Lord abides in us. No matter what we face, we are not alone. There is great truth in what is said in that song: in Christ, we are all in this together. Take heart: it is I, the Lord. Be not afraid.

This Sunday: Easter 6A

Acts 17.22-31

Psalm 66.7-18

I Peter 3.13-22

John 14.15-21

Next Sunday: Easter 7A

Acts 1.6-14

Psalm 68.1-10,32-35

I Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

John 17.1-11

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

**Gracious God,  
you have founded your people  
on Christ, the precious cornerstone.  
Let our daily living  
rest securely on this foundation,  
so that in the risen life of Jesus  
our lives may find  
the fullness of their meaning and their truth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

Acts 17

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 are the High Priest of the Covenant.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.  
You build us as living stones in the temple of God.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.  
You make us fellow citizens with your saints.

**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 unknown, God revealed in Christ,  
reveal yourself also  
in the coming of the Spirit of truth.  
Lead us into your house,  
so that, with a clear conscience  
and having a good hope,  
we may practise your commandment of love  
and face your judgement without fear.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
who in blessed and 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 17.22–31**

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would

live,<sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.<sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.<sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

based on Psalm 66

### I Peter 3.13–22

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God

for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

[NRSV]

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

‘I will not leave you orphaned,’ says the Lord:

‘I am coming to you.’

**Alleluia!**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 14.15–21

<sup>15</sup> ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Breaking Open the Word

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

“This is my will, my one command,  
that love should dwell among you all.  
This is my will, that you should love  
as I have shown that I love you.

“I call you now no longer slaves;  
no slave knows all the master does.  
I call you friends, for all I hear  
my Father say, you hear from me.

“No greater love can any have  
than that one die to save his friends.  
You are my friends if you obey  
what I command that you should do.

“You chose not me, but I chose you,  
that you should go and bear much fruit.  
I chose you out that you in me  
should bear much fruit that will abide.

“All that you ask my Father dear  
for my name’s sake you shall receive.  
This is my will, my one command,  
that love should dwell in each, in all.

TiS 641

James Quinn SJ 1919–2010

## Prayers of Intercession

*The response is:*

Risen Jesus who loves us, reveal yourself in us and  
**hear our prayer.**

*The World*

coping with the pandemic and working towards healing  
honesty and integrity amongst the nations  
respect for all people

*The Church*

Our local Church community on the road back to a new norm;  
our centres: St John’s, St Paul’s and the Church of the Resurrection;  
our Parish leadership team: Dennis, Alan, Ben and our lay-readers  
Naomi, Debra, Janine and Lorna

*The Community*

Today is IDAHOBIT Day: a day set aside to remind us of the  
importance of valuing each human being as being uniquely made in  
God’s image, and raising awareness of Homophobia, Transphobia,  
Biphobia and discrimination against people with an intersex  
condition. It calls for an end of irrational violence. We show that we  
are people under the covenant of the same rainbow as Noah: never  
should we allow people to suffer on account of who they are.

*Those in need:*

The sick, the discriminated, those who mourn, those who bring

healing and research;  
all victims of COVID-19; peace in our communities

*The Faithful Departed*

Caroline Chisholm: local saint of this Shire, giving thanks for the empowerment and care of women everywhere.

Gay, mother of Fiona Whitton

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

**God, our hope,  
in Christ, the risen One  
you walk with your Church,  
unfolding your word  
and breaking the bread of life.  
Make us true witnesses to your tenderness,  
and unite us as a community of welcome  
for all who seek you.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

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.



EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS  
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

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 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>** 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.

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

The Road Map back to a new Normal  
Stage 2.5 as outlined by the Diocese

### **Funerals**

Funerals will be raised from 10 mourners plus celebrant and staff to 20 mourners plus celebrant and staff. Social distancing will still apply.

Funerals conducted within the Church will still have the social distancing in place. There will be some virtual attendance requirements in place. This may mean examining the technology needed across the Parish.

### **Weddings**

The limit is now 10 guests, plus the celebrant, bride and groom.

If there is a live musician, then that person will count as one of the guests.

The next wedding in the Parish will be Adrian and Rhiannon, September 19th at 3 pm., St Paul's.

### **Baptisms**

The 10 person rule plus celebrant apply with the previous guidelines on sanitising hands in place. Baptism in emergencies will apply as per current situation.

### **Pastoral Visiting**

The new rules give us hope of being able to visit under 'welfare' rules with strong limitations in place. The Reserved Sacrament communion is allowed in one kind, as is the celebration of home communion. Hospitals and Nursing homes will be on a direct request only. Small home groups may resume with the 5 only visitor rules in place.

### **Eucharist**

It is possible for us to consider re-establishing Eucharistic services in which only 10 plus the sanctuary crew are present.

Strict conditions will apply to the services. The 10 must be signed in, and doors locked; hands must be sanitised; 4 square metre rule to be in place; short and simple service, no singing; and the place disinfected and deep cleaned before and after each service. If there are to be two services, then 1 hour must clearly elapse. Furthermore, minimal use of prayer books etc. All book covers must

be disinfected at the conclusion of the service. Communion will be distributed in one kind only. The Archbishop has advised that a “COVID-19” compliance officer be appointed.

#### Service of Light.

The initial plan was to have this at Macedon Sunday May 17th at 7 pm Taizé style. With the singing restrictions, that will not be possible.

The Service of Light was a way of blessing and lighting the Paschal Candles for each centre, and then sending them back.

At this stage, this service will now be on a later date. One suggestion is for Ascension Day, 21st May at 7.30 pm, in the context of Eucharist.

This service will be undertaken by the Leadership Team with the EfM group.

#### Re-introducing the Eucharist

Presider and one Minister of the Word or server.

10 parishioners by appointment (ugh!)

Parishioners will be on first booked in and must fill in a form on arrival.

Door shut at 10 people.

Said Eucharist with short reflection.

Offertory/Stewardship will be received at each service.

For fairness, knowing that there are people who would dearly like to be at all services, a booking system will be in place. This was also slated to begin within the next week, but now will be deferred until after the Parish Executive and Parish Council meetings.

#### Sunday Services

For the time being, the main service will continue to be pre-recorded.

A small group gathering each Sunday night is possible subject to the above conditions.

#### Op Shops

All Op Shops are to remain closed for the moment.

#### Play Group

Subject to further clarification from the Archbishop’s Office, it is not envisaged that Play Group will return before Term 3 (July 13th). There are strict guidelines being formalised. This will also enable essential equipment to be purchased to facilitate operation.

Parish Executive meets Tuesday May 19th.

Parish Council meets Sunday May 24th.