



ANGLICAN PARISH OF  
**GISBORNE**  
MACEDON | RIDDELLS CREEK | GISBORNE



Christ the King Cathedral Church in Mytikina  
Photo © Anna Russell

***Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
29 August, 2021

*Online Resource for Morning Prayer 10.30 am*  
[www.bit.ly/GisborneAnglicanVMT](http://www.bit.ly/GisborneAnglicanVMT)

*The Anglican Parish of Gisborne acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land,  
the peoples of the Kulin Nations,  
and we pay our respects to their elders, living, past and emerging.  
We acknowledge that sovereignty was never 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. Whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church, you are invited to join us in Holy Communion. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, then please take a copy of our welcome brochure, visit our website or ask one of our welcomers.*

“Earworms” are dreadful things! If you are not familiar with the term, it is a tune or fragment of a song that sticks in mind. It haunts you. It interrupts you. It disturbs you. There is no easy explanation other than your memory acting like an old LP vinyl record with a scratch. The stylus keeps hitting the scratch, and the same fragment is being played over and over again.

My earworm today is from the musical “Fiddler on the Roof.” It is the chorus, Tradition, tradition!”

Partly fed by the Gospel for today, Mark 7.1-8, 14-23, Jesus was very critical of the use of the traditions of Moses to justify non-compliance with the intent of the law. The laws were given as a ‘boundary’ of good community living. The law was meant to be freeing, but many exceptions were granted in the name of tradition. For some, the letter of the law was more important than the reason behind the law.

Six verses are missing from today’s Gospel. In literary terms, this passage is a ‘chiasm’, or if you are more familiar with music form, ternary form: ABA.

Jesus outlines his objection to the teaching of the Pharisees and then returns to his complaints to provide clarity. In the “B” section, Jesus gives an example of the traditions of men being used as doctrine. The example he uses is that of ‘corban’. It was a process where the care of the elderly family members was left to the Temple (or state), freeing the younger generations to continue their lives unencumbered. Jesus points out that this violates the commandment “honour your mother and father.” There is no honour in abandonment.

It will not be the keeping of the law on which we will be judged. It will be on the deeds we do and the intention of the heart.

Tradition is important. It gives us well-worn and tried ways for the community to build. Ceremony for the sake of tradition, or at the cost of everything else, has no life in it. What follows (next week) is an encounter for Jesus that would challenge him to his very core.

### Today’s worship:

|               |                                       |   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Pentecost 14  | Song of Songs 2.8-13<br>James 1.17-27 | Psalms 45.1-2, 6-9<br>Mark 7.1-8, 14-23 |
| Martrys of NG | Zephaniah 3.14-20<br>Romans 8.33-39   | Psalms 130<br>John 12.20-32             |

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## Gathering Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the living waters flow:  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

TIS 569

William Williams 1717-91

Blessed be God; ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matt 4.4

Conscious of our failure to proclaim the gospel,  
let us call to mind our sins:

You came to unite and restore your people:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Your call is for us to be a part of your eternal family:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We sometimes fail to recognise your presence in our midst:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Collect

Let us pray.

Come close to us, O God,  
and with your word of truth  
purify the intentions of our hearts.  
Let us walk in your law of liberty  
as doers who act and are blessed in their doing,  
so that what we profess with our lips  
we may carry out in our lives  
for the sake of your praise and glory,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen .**

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

The Ministry of the Word

A reading from the Song of Songs

*Song of Songs 2.8-13*

Springtime Rhapsody

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
My beloved speaks and says to me:  
'Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

*At the conclusion the reader may say:*

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 7,  
beginning at the first verse.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Mark 7.1-8,14-23

*The Tradition of the Elders*

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and

they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Breaking Open the Word

*Music for Reflection*

The Ministry of Prayer

*A member of the Parish leads us in prayer.*

The response to "Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts"  
is "**hear our prayers**"

Let us pray to the Lord, who knows all the secrets of our hearts. Give grace to the Church to be steadfast in faith, firm in your word, zealous in good work . . . Keep your people strong when their discipleship is costly and the burden is heavy.

Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts: **hear our prayers.**

Have mercy on your human creation that does not recognise its true identity . . . Restore the world to knowledge of the truth and lead it out of the slavery of error into the perfect law of liberty.

Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts: **hear our prayers.**

Fill us with praise for the good gifts that you have given to us in families and friendships . . . Give us grace to use them in your service for the good of others.

Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts: **hear our prayers.**

Visit and relieve all who suffer from cruelty and injustice under evil laws . . . Through the sufferings of Christ, grant them release and turn the hearts of their persecutors.

Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts: **hear our prayers.**

We give thanks for the peace of the departed, whose suffering is over and who rest in your care . . . Grant them a place in the glory of heaven.

Lord, you know the innermost thoughts of our hearts: **hear our prayers.**

Chapman, Raymond. Leading Intercessions:  
Prayers for Sundays, Festivals and Special Services:  
Years A,B & C .  
Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.

*At the conclusion of the prayers, as the intercessor places the prayer requests on the Altar,  
we pray together:*

**Eternal God, source of all peace,  
you call your children to live together as one family.  
Give us grace to learn your ways  
and to do your will,  
that we may bring your justice and peace to all people,  
by the power of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world

James 1.27

Notices

Blessing

May the Creator God who formed us in our mother's womb be known to us and those whom we meet.

May the Son, give us through his presence a heart to long for and discern his divine presence.

May the Holy Spirit give us courage to proclaim divine providence that has hovered over us since the foundations of the world.

The blessing of God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. **Amen.**

ALL BEING WELL, WE WILL BE BACK AT  
CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEXT WEEK  
10.30 am

(There is unfinished wedding business to complete!)