



Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta



Holy Trinity Benalla, St Aidan's Swanpool,  
St Paul's Goorambat

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*11th April*

*Easter 2*

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Anglican Parish of Benalla



## GRACE

**G**row our congregation to be a stronger presence in the community

**R**each out through active pastoral care

**A**ctively engage the giftedness of our congregation in relation to their time, talents and treasures

**C**reate opportunities for mission and evangelism

**E**ncourage collaborative ways of ministry



**A warm welcome to any visitors please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.**



Christ is Risen! The Easter celebration continues with the familiar upper room appearances from John's Gospel. But, this year the supporting texts highlight a feature of the resurrection that can easily be missed – the way Christ's resurrection brings us into a unified, loving community in which we share joy and abundant life together. May we find life in our connection with each other, with the world, and with God as we worship this week.

**Hymn:**

The Lord be with you.      **And also with you**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,

**Whose mercy endures for ever.**

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.      **And also with you.**

All may exchange a sign of peace

**SENTENCE**

‘Peace be with you,’ says the Lord. ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ *John 20.21*

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair but whose presence is overwhelming: breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 4.32-37**

*[The early disciples of Christ bear witness to the resurrection through their generosity and care for one another, ensuring that no one among them had any need.]*

*A reading from the book of Acts*

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to god**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 133**

*[A song of celebration for the blessing of living in unity.]*

**Response: The Lord's blessing is life for ever.**

Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. **R**

It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, **R**

Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing./**R**

It is like the dew of Hermon  
running down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore./**R**

## SECOND READING

1 John 1.1 - 2.2

*[John writes to testify to Jesus and to open the door to fellowship for the believers with one another and with God. However, if we claim to be in fellowship but live in “darkness” – denial and sin – we lie. But, if we confess our sin, and live in the light we do, indeed, have fellowship with God and others]*

*A reading from the first letter of John*

We announce to you that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thank be to God***

## GOSPEL

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Blessed are those who | have not seen and yet have come | to believe. **Alleluia!**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

John 20.19-31

*[Jesus appears to the disciples in the closed upper room, giving them a gift of the Spirit, and sending them just as he was sent. Then, Thomas who wasn't at this appearance, is encountered by Jesus, and his doubts are removed.]*

*A reading from the holy gospel according to John*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## *Prayer Works*



### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

God of all hope, may we in the wake of Easter, ride a wave of irrepressible hope - rising from the deep following the trajectory of love over the turbulences of our living and through the currents. So within joy, may we sense your presence hovering ever with us - ever speaking new creation - ever calling us into possibility. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth***

**turn our doubt to faith.**

God of all holiness, we bring our prayers for your world; for those recovering from human disasters from failed economies; for those suffering the devastation of war, and for all the millions of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing terror. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

God of all wonder, the old has passed away and in you, in your resurrection, in your life and love, everything becomes new; bless and equip your church to show forth resurrection in word, sacrament, healing and forgiveness; we pray for Clarence our Bishop, Rev Maryann and our parish that we may know and show the true joy of your love. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

God of all grace, we pray for our communities and those with whom we share our lives, our families and friends, help us to be gentle with each other, soft and loving in touch and fill us with your love; we pray for the lost and the lonely, those suffering abuse and those who would abuse others, that reconciliation and harmony pervade relationships to bring peace. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

God of sorrows and suffering, we pray for all who suffer, those with diseases of body and mind; for those who grieve and for the dying and all who tend to them; grant comfort and solace to all in need; those known to us and those who have requested prayer; *Leanne, Sharon, Melinda, Bev, Timmy, Matthew, Richard, Bronwyn, Hiko, Jane, Lottie, Jan & baby Scarlett.* We give thanks for healing and blessings where ever received. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

Holy God, we give you thanks that in Christ you welcome your people into everlasting life; we pray for the recently departed, and for those whose year's mind occurs this week. *Violet Alliston, Phyllis McArthur, Robert Nicholas, Peter Pennington, Henery Ackland, Robert Hyland, Jean Glover, Herbert Newitt, Kathleen Ambling, May Marshall, & Maxwell Rooney.* Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

Holy One, we find ourselves in the locked doors of ourselves just as the disciples were behind closed doors; we too are so like Thomas with our questions and our doubts; we too are often afraid, perhaps for a different reason than theirs; hear us as we pray for ourselves .....; let the breath of the Holy Spirit to take away our fears so that we can come out from behind our locked doors, believe the good news, and be filled with goodness and holiness. *Your love could not be defeated; **may that truth turn our doubt to faith.***

Those things, Lord, that we your servants have prayed for, **give us grace to work for; and in the purposes of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker, day by day the weary are sustained with your word and we are gently encouraged us to place our trust in you; accept our prayers through him who turns our sorrows into joys and shows us the way of righteousness and peace, and taught us to pray: **Our Father .....[pg. 124]**

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The surprising message of this week's lectionary is one that is deeply needed in our world and our Church at this time. This second Sunday of Easter continues the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, but it adds a facet to the story that is not often spoken of – the way Christ's gift of life brings us into a unified, life-giving, faith community. In the Acts reading, the early church is described as a caring, loving and serving community in which all things were held in common and no one had need. The famous Psalm 133 celebrates the joy and life that is found in a united community.

In John's letter the testimony about Jesus connects with the call to live "in the light", with honesty and integrity, and explains how living like this, in Jesus' resurrection life, brings us into fellowship with God and one another. Finally, in the Gospel, the first appearance of Jesus includes both the sending of the disciples as Jesus was sent to welcome, forgive and heal – proclaiming God's Reign – and the call to be people of forgiveness, which of course, is a key facet to reconciliation.

In the Thomas story, the isolation that is felt by one who has not yet come to faith in Christ's resurrection life is poignantly described, and then the joy when he finds faith and a place in the worshipping, faith community is expressed. The simple and obvious message is that the resurrection is not a personal, individual gift, but is also about reconciliation and community. Because of Christ's life we find connection with one another and with God, and we are able to live out of this sense of belonging, welcoming others, as John does in his letter, into the joy that we have found. The truth is that life is always found and enjoyed together.

## **CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

### ***Global Application:***

One of the biggest struggles we face in the world today is our inability to experience our connectedness with one another, with God, and with our planet. In the realm of religion, we have built an exclusivist culture that welcomes and accepts only those who think and act and believe as we do. This "us-and-them" world view has led to religious violence, social fragmentation, political partisanship, and carelessness of creation. In the realm of economics we have underestimated both the impact that risky behaviour in one sector can have on the whole system, and how interconnected the global economy is. And in terms of power, resources, and technology, we have failed to grasp how significant our connections are as they bypass the false categorisations and lines of division that we have set up.

One result of our failure to apprehend our connectedness is that we lose the joy and life that true community brings. The gap between rich and poor grows, the conflicts between countries, religions, and ideologies continue, and the destruction of our planet and its species is unchecked. If we could begin to believe in resurrection as a lived reality, though, we could turn so much of this around. Once we recognise that God's life flows through everything and everyone, we can open ourselves to see the connections that God's life creates, and then we can begin to experience and enjoy our connectedness, ultimately working toward unity and interdependence. But, the starting point is to receive God's Spirit, to practice forgiveness and to go into the world as those who are sent, like Christ, to bring the grace, compassion, and justice of God into the world. Then, as we "walk in the light" with one another, we will begin to know the fellowship that John wrote about, and we find abundant, limitless life in our connectedness with God and one another.

***Local Application:***

Believing is often preached as a cognitive, intellectual thing, and resurrection as a doorway to personal, eternal bliss. Unfortunately, both of these views create division, conflict, and isolation of individuals and interest groups. The spread of individualism to the life of faith has left in its wake the remains of broken families, broken churches, and broken communities – the opposite of the resurrection life of connected community that this week's readings celebrate. The resurrection, though, is a manifestation of God's Reign that impacts every part of our lives – now and eternally. It is a life that is unrestrained, indiscriminate, and connecting. When we have truly believed, it changes how we live, and when what we believe is resurrection it moves us toward others in order to share life.

Resurrection faith strengthens us when we grieve, because we are able to support and comfort one another. It inspires us when we celebrate because we are able to multiply our joy together. It makes our work more effective because we draw both on the resources of God's Spirit and of our togetherness. In this way God's resurrection life becomes more than just an idea that gives us hope. It becomes the lived reality of every day, and leads us inexorably into the glorious joy and sense of belonging that we find as citizens of God's Reign.







# Benalla Anglican Op Shop & Emergency Food Relief

Our Op Shop is coming along very well. All items to be kept from Eagles Hall, have been transferred to the Rectory Garage out the back. We have had a skip and filled it! The industrial air-conditioning unit is going in this Sunday from 11am. Some minor electrical work will be done during the week. A new Zippy hot water service is also being installed during the week.

The eftpos machine has been installed and we have ordered our cash register. Books have been sorted into alphabetical order and we are awaiting the shelving from the Men's Shed. We have procured a counter. We are awaiting the arrival of fixtures for clothing etc. Phew!!!!!!!

Thank you to those who have assisted in any way. A big thank you must go to the Vicar's wife for spending hours and hours sorting, cleaning and organising. I think he might have done this before!



## What can be donated?

- \* Clothing clean in good condition, including ladies, mens, children's
- \* Shoes in good condition, belts, hand bags, bags,
- \* Homewares (no cracks or chips), including pots and pans, cutlery etc.
- \* Linen, blankets, towels, table cloths, doilies etc in clean good condition.
- \* Camping items, clean good condition
- \* Toys, in good condition, board games and jigsaw puzzles with all pieces
- \* Books, fiction, nonfiction, children's, unused colouring books.

- \* Jewellery
- \* Plants
- \* Wedding/Deb dresses and men's suits
- \* Jams etc in the future.

## **NO ELECTRICAL GOODS OR FURNITURE!!!!!!**

**THE COURTHOUSE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO COLLECT DONATIONS ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 11AM TO 12NOON AND AFTER THAT, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. CALL JOHN 0488 994 351.**

**WE WILL LET YOU KNOW A MORE REGULAR TIME TO DONATE IN THE FUTURE.**



There are a couple of options for volunteering for this project.

- 1) You may like to be a behind the scenes person. Sorting, ironing and cleaning items before sale. This will be in the Courthouse.
- 2) You may prefer to assist in the shop.

Volunteers do not have to be parishioners or belong to any church. We will encourage community participation. Invite your friends.

The shifts are usually for 3 hours. However, you can choose your availability. Tea/coffee, microwave etc are available for you to utilise.

Please add your name to the list at the entrance of the church if you wish to volunteer. We require at least 2 people for each shift in the shop and 2 or more people sorting.

Business hours would be 10am - 4pm on Thursday to Saturday

11am - 4pm on Sundays



Emergency Food Relief will also operate from the Op Shop. More on this outreach soon. This will form part of our Mission to Minister to all.



## **A Prayer Book For Australia. A Study**

Wednesday 7th April @ 11.00am Rectory

Thursday 8th April @ 7.30pm Zoom Link sent Wednesday morning.

This study will look at how this green and red book can be used to navigate your way through various prayers, daily services. Readings for year A,B&C, psalms, and much more. This will be a one or two week study.

Prayer Books will be supplied. You will never need a lectionary again!



After attending the Lady Day Service in Wangaratta in late March, there has been an interest to reform Mother's Union (MU) here in Benalla. Please let Rev'd Maryann know if you are interested.

Vision: Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

Mission: Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.

The PURPOSE of Mothers' Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

Its AIM is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

Its FIVE OBJECTS are:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.



Monday 12th April

Mental Health Conference Rev'd  
Maryann. Benalla Health

11.00am -12noon Op Shop Donations  
Parish Centre

Tuesday 13th April

1.00pm Deanery Meeting

Wednesday 14th April

11.00am Know the Pray Book Rectory

Thursday 15th April

10.00am Safe Church Committee Wang

**NO MORNING PRAYER**

2.00pm Rectory Inspection (Wardens)

7.30pm Zoom Know your Prayer Book.

Friday 16th April

10.30am Cooinda

Saturday 17th April

11.00am Baptism Holy Trinity

2.30pm Baptism at Christ Church  
Seymour.

Sunday 18th April

10.00am HT Eucharist /Morning Tea

11.30am Parish Council

