

Welcome to

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BENALLA

HOLY TRINITY, BENALLA

ST AIDAN'S, SWANPOOL ST PAUL'S, GOORAMBAT

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

29th AUGUST, 2021



The Pharisees and the scribes observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. (Gospel)

GRACE

Grow our congregation to be a stronger presence in the community.

Reach out through active pastoral care.

Actively engage the giftedness of our congregation
in relation to their time, talents and treasures.

Create opportunities for mission and evangelism.

Encourage collaborative ways of ministry.



Season of Creation.



This year from September to the first week in October, Bishop Clarence has asked the diocese to embark on a four-to-five-week observance titled: “The Season of Creation”.

Bishop Clarence writes: “As Anglicans, and as those who are part of the greater human family, we need to become aware that, as stewards of God’s gifts, we need to take responsibility for these gifts.

Just as with mission and evangelism through the proclamation of the good news; teaching, baptizing and nurturing new believers; responding to human need by loving service; and transforming the unjust structures of society, challenging violence of every kind and pursuing peace and reconciliation, our need to work towards sustaining and renewing the life of the earth is as important as life itself”.

Over the five weeks of the Season of Creation, there are to be five themes:

- Economy - God’s rules for our Common Home
- Ecology - Protecting our Common Home
- Ecumenism - The family of God in our Common Home
- Pray and Act - For our Common Home
- St Francis - Hope for our Common Home

While a variety of resources has been made available for parish use, in order to maintain the continuity of the lectionary and the integrity of the Sunday liturgy in following the life of Christ as recorded by the gospel writers, in this parish, at this point in time, we will commit to this endeavour on Sundays through the prayers of intercession following each of the five themes in turn. Hence our intercessions on the first Sunday (next Sunday) will include prayers under the heading: “Economy – God’s rules for our common home”.

Christians are encouraged to read and reflect on the scriptures regularly and to pray every day – not just Sundays. To this end, therefore, should anyone wish to avail themselves of any of the resource material that has been made available (commentary, prayers, scripture readings, sermons, music) on any of the five themes. I will be only too happy to oblige. Simply telephone or email me with your request.

Fr Bill.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 Psalm 15 James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27 Mark. 7:1-8, 14-23

Today's Gospel casts Jesus in a prophetic light, as one having authority to interpret God's law.

Jesus' quotation from Isaiah today (*"This people draw near with their mouths and honour me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me...."*) is ironic. In observing the law, the Pharisees honour God by ensuring that nothing unclean passes their lips. In this, however, they've turned the law inside out, making it a matter of simply performing certain external actions.

The gift of the law, which we hear God giving to Israel in today's First Reading, is fulfilled in Jesus' gospel, which shows us the law's true meaning and purpose (*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets: I have come not to abolish but to fulfil"* - Matthew 6:13).

The law, fulfilled in the gospel, is meant to form our hearts, to make us pure, able to live in the Lord's presence. The law was given that we might live and enter into the inheritance promised to us — the kingdom of God, eternal life.

Israel, by its observance of the law, was meant to be an example to surrounding nations. As James tells us in today's Epistle, the gospel was given to us that we might have new birth by the Word of truth. By living the Word we've received, we're to be examples of God's wisdom to those around us, the "first fruits" of a new humanity.

This means we must be "doers" of the Word, not merely hearers of it. As we ponder today's Psalm and hear again in today's Second Reading, we must work for justice, taking care of our brothers and sisters, and living by the truth God has placed in our hearts.

The Word given to us is a perfect gift. We should not add to it through vain and needless devotions. Nor should we subtract from it by picking and choosing which of God's laws to honour.

"Hear me," Jesus says in today's Gospel. Today, we're called to examine our relationship to God's law.

Is the practice of our religion a pure listening to Jesus, a humble welcoming of the Word planted in us and able to save our souls? Or are we only paying lip-service?

(Acknowledgement: Scott Hahn).

COLLECT

Cleanse our consciences, O Lord, and enlighten our hearts through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ, that when he comes in glory to be our judge we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

A reading from the book Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people. He said: “So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children”.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 15

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle :
or who may dwell upon your holy hill?
2. Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing which is right :
who speaks the truth from the heart,
and has not slandered with the tongue;
3. Who has done no evil to his friend:
nor vented abuse against a neighbour;
4. In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:
but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;
5. Whoever has sworn to a neighbour :
and will not go back on that oath;

6. Who has not put money to usury :
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.
7. Whoever does these things:
shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

James 1: 17-27

A reading from the letter of James

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-23

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God our Father, you are the giver of all good gifts, and you have given to us laws by which to live and so to give you honour and glory: give to your Church the grace and the will to live in obedience to your laws with the free attitude of Christ. So guide our living that we do not replace the gospel with rites and laws of human invention, but bring to people the freedom, the gentleness and the light of Christ. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you ask us to put all our hopes in you and to trust in your grace. Bless the Anglican Church throughout the world as it works to provide for the spiritual growth of its people and to reach out to serve the spiritual health, education and development needs of ordinary citizens. Bless especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Geoffrey, Primate of Australia; Clarence, Bishop of Wangaratta and the clergy and people of this diocese.

Give to us all a constantly renewed hope, faith, and joy in the knowledge that in serving others we are also serving you.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for peace in the world especially in Afghanistan. We pray for a time when the weapons of war will be replaced by your protection; when oppression will be overcome by justice; when lies and deceit will be replaced by truth and integrity; and when hatred and cruelty will be replaced with your Spirit of love and justice.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Father of creation, we lift before you this world and all its resources, help us to care for it and each play our part to repair the damage we have done. We pray for the people of Haiti and the myriad of places which in recent times have been devastated and are experiencing suffering through earthquakes, fires, floods and drought.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, we bring before you all of those who are in any kind of need. Especially we pray for those whose lives have been laid low with the coronavirus pandemic.

We pray for doctors, nurses and all who are caring for them, that, through their skill and care, they may be restored to health. Give skill, wisdom and resilience to medical researchers and those searching for a vaccine.

We pray for the vulnerable and the fearful, for those who are isolated through current lockdowns. In their loneliness, be their hope and give us strength to be bearers of your compassion to others, even in the midst of our own fears and disquiet.

We pray for our homes and families, our schools and aged care facilities; for our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship and not of fear and suspicion.

We pray for those who are guiding our nation and our state at this time; for the leaders of the nations of the world and all who guide public health policy during this pandemic, that they may not be guided by partisan politics, but may look to the welfare and care of all their people. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

As we hold before you those troubled in mind, body or spirit, we remember especially those who are grieving – Peter and Mark Radford and their families; Lin Wilkinson, Kathy, Warren and Brendon Sheehan, and their families; Nan Sullivan and her family. Grant them the comfort of the Holy Spirit within them, and the fellowship of the church family around them until all are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom. We remember the chronically ill, those in constant pain, the depressed and the despairing. We especially pray for those who have asked for our prayers -

Leanne, Sharon, Melinda, Bev, Timmy, Matthew, Richard, Bronwyn, Heiko, Jane, Lottie, Jan, Noella, Pauline and Kaitlin.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God as we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, we pray too for those who have died recently:— Winifred Radford, Edward Robert Sheehan and John Sullivan - and those whose anniversary we recall this week especially Shirley Margaret Ellis Sleigh, whose anniversary is today.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord ... **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 for ever.

Amen.

YEAR'S MIND THIS WEEK:

- 29th Shirley Margaret Ellis Sleigh.
- 30th Albert Henry Harding, Linda Marie Anderson,
Keith George Edward Lowen, David John Bridges.
- 31st Isabella Marion Reid.
- 1st Annette Joan Holmes, Evelyn Maude Burns, Phyllis Merle Old,
Sylvia Linda Stolz.
- 2nd Doreen Robertson, Emily Rosaline Mary Meares.
- 3rd Donald Attwood Tranter, Francis Deane Runge
- 4th Lillian Heaney, Patricia Constance Bennett, William Lewis Webb

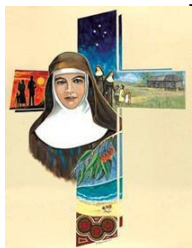
NOTICES



Benalla Anglican Op Shop

Working Bees will be held on each Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30am - **Covid restrictions permitting**. This includes sorting, pricing and setting up. Contact Susan Mann for further information on 0468 619 198.

Zoom Bible Study is starting back up on Wednesday 1st September at 7:30pm. To join the group contact Lesley Hupe 0412 111 397 or Heather Lloyd on 5768 2536 for information about how to access the Zoom meeting.



Diocesan Quiet Day

Saturday 4 September at Bishop's Lodge, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Focus – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Faith, Hope & Love
No cost. Bookings to Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup on 0418254158
Or email to: chaplain@wanganatta-anglican.org.au

A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert

Benalla Theatre Company presents a concert of entertainment featuring music from the Mamma Mia! musical, Baker's Tonic, Mamma Mia and more. Includes a hymn sing-a-long! At Holy Trinity, Benalla

Postponed



September Parish Newsletter

The next edition of the GRACE Newsletter is being compiled. If you have an article of interest to be included please send through to the communication team at anglicanbenalla@bigpond.com or drop in the slot at the office or hand to Molly Craig.

Postage & Paper



Each week we send out a paper copy of the pew sheet to parishioners who don't have an email address. This is an added cost to the parish. If you would like to assist with this, please place your donation in the collection plate or thru the slot in the door of the office.

8.00am Sunday Eucharist

Consideration is being given to re-introducing the 8.00am Sunday Eucharist and recommencing the Thursday Eucharist at 9.30am. Parishioners who would be supportive of either of these services should contact Fr Bill. (see contact details below).

Cooinda

Services are set to resume at Cooinda (*when Covid restrictions are lifted*) on the **2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays at 10.00am** commencing tomorrow (23rd). This is an important ministry and anyone who wishes to come along is encouraged to do so. It will be useful, initially, should you wish to come, to let Fr Bill know beforehand.

Parish Directory:

Mail: PO Box 250, Benalla. 3672
Email: anglicanbenalla@bigpond.com
Website: <http://www.anglicanbenalla.org.au>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anglicanbenalla>

Locum Priest: Fr Bill Squire Tel. 5762 6334, Mob. 0429 626 334
Email: wsquire68@bigpond.com

Wardens:

Molly Craig	0417 058 567
Dawne Tonks	0427 185 711
Lesley Hupe	0412 111 397

Fr Bill is freely available for consultation on any spiritual matters or simply for conversation during this time of lockdown.

For other matters, please contact one of the wardens of the parish.

Parish Banking Details:

BSB: 083 541 Acc: 515688430
Anglican Parish of Benalla