

Parish Priest

Fr Neil Fernando Mobile: 0478 085 894
E-mail: frneilfdo@gmail.com

Parish Hall Bookings

Lynn Fisher : Mobile: 0407 186 174

Pew Sheet

All notices/information for pew sheet to Parish Office **no later**

9.00am Thursday mornings please

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Parish Office

Telephone: (08) 8723 1353 Email: churchan@bigpond.net.au
Postal Address: PO Box 1357, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290

Church Addresses: Christ Church, 26 Bay Road, Mount Gambier
St Thomas, Church Street, Port MacDonnell
St Luke's, Post Office Road, Mount Schank

Web site : www.anglicanmountgambier.org.au

Details for giving by Direct Debit : The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier
BSB : 105-002
A/c number : 041 398 740



We pray for the Diocese of The Murray and Parish Council Members

Bishop Keith Dalby (Alice) ; Very Rev. David Price (Dean) (Lesley);
Fr Des Ackland (Raelene)

and in the Limestone Coast

Fr Neil (Nalini); Fr Wayne Corker; Fr Lyndon Sulzberger, Bishop Michael Hough

Parish Counsellors, Christ Church

Richard Strickland, Helen Douglass, Richard Mills, Brian Smith,
Dick Hamson, Graham Savage, Robyn Sweetnam, Sandy Coulson

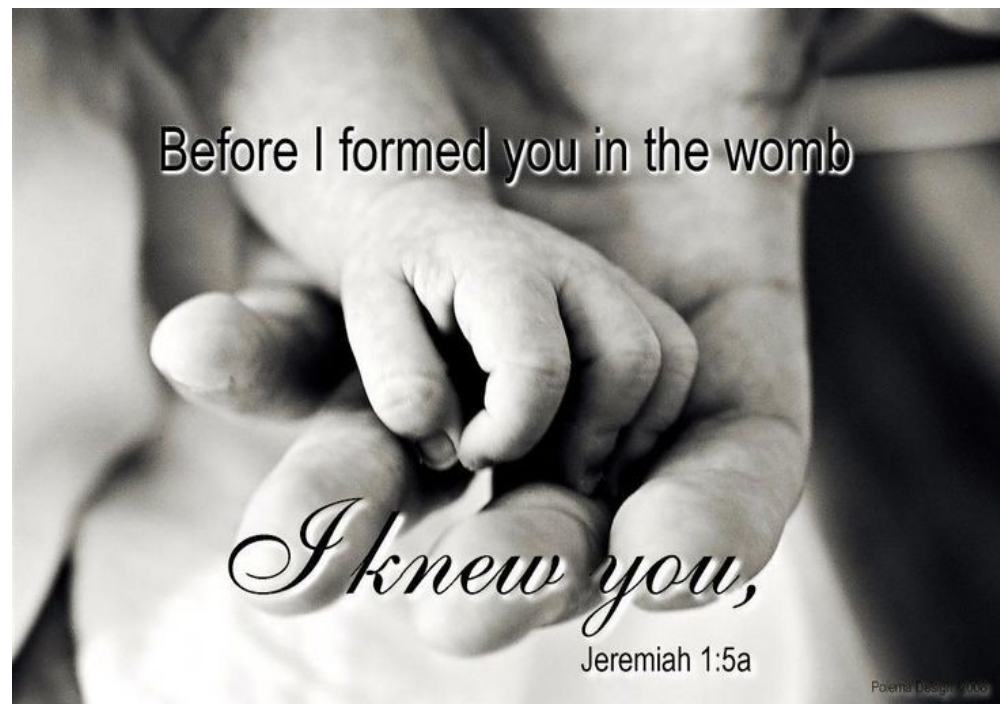
The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank**

**St Thomas
Port MacDonnell**

Epiphany 4 : 30th January 2022



I chose you before you were born



As a Christian community, we acknowledge and pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather and meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders—past, present and future.

***Wearing of face masks is mandatory, so please remember to wear your face mask when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop or meetings at the church.
You must also register using the QR code or by manually filling out an attendance sheet.***

From Fr Neil

I have chosen you before you were born

God's vision for humanity is a prophetic vision, one that will inevitably meet with resistance and rejection. **Make no excuses:** God may assign you a demanding task, but His call keeps us going when we don't want to go and are ready to quit. We are skillful at the art of making excuses, aren't we? "I don't know how". "I didn't understand". "I couldn't find the right tools". "The John's crew is here and won't let me out of the house.". "I have been there, done that". "Too hot, too cold".



Jeremiah had every excuse ready when God called him to be a prophet. His excuses are often our excuses for not heeding God's voice when he calls. Countering each excuse was a promise from God. Jesus, too, was called to be a prophet. He travelled from place to place challenging the people to change so that their future in heaven would be guaranteed. Jesus spoke to the hearts of people. Most did not accept his message of repentance, for they did not want to change.

God may assign you a demanding task, but his call keeps us going when we don't want to go and are ready to quit. We have the promise of God's purpose. "I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born" (Jer. 1:5). Jeremiah was known by name, hand-picked by God, and commissioned to serve. Those acts give one a great sense of purpose. The promise of God's purpose allows us to let go of our own plans and to receive God's plan without fear. Like Jeremiah and Jesus, we need to accept that our future is not our own. We are God's. He has a distinct plan and purpose for our lives. The excuse: "My talent is inadequate". But I protested, 'Oh no, Lord, GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth" (Jer. 1:6). Jeremiah felt inadequate as a public speaker. By the way, this excuse was shared by Moses (Ex. 4:10). In the Christian world, we can find all sorts of excuses not to obey God's voice: "It's the preacher's job". "It's not my gift". "I've already served, let someone else do it". "I'm too busy or too tired or too old or too young".

God has a way to overcome weakness and our insufficiencies, doesn't he? I have learned over the years, however, that the person most aware of his own inadequacy is usually the person most dependent on God's all-sufficiency.' "For when I am weak, then I am strong" Our talent may appear inadequate, but God always equips those he calls. We have the promise of God's provision. "Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with My words" (Jer. 1:9). The touch was not so much to purify as it was to inspire and empower. It was symbolic of the gift of prophecy bestowed on Jeremiah.

Jesus experienced this touch in a visible, yet profound way. Following his baptism, immediately coming out of the water, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended on him like a dove. And God spoke: "This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him" (Matt. 3:17). God blesses not the silver-tongued orator, but the one whose tongue has been touched with coals from the altar. God uses not the most gifted and talented person, but the one touched by the hand of God. God uses the most unlikely persons to shake a church

Sunday, 30th January 2022—Epiphany 4			
Jer 1. 4-5, 17-19	Ps 71. 1-13	1 Cor 12. 31-13. 13	Luke 4. 21-30
Server	Darren Schunke		
Readers	Trevor Christopher / Darren Schunke		
Intercessions	Rick Fisher		
Sound desk	Bill Hudd		
Flowers	Elizabeth Hodges / O Green		
Sunday, 6th February 2022—Epiphany 5			
Isa 6. 1-13	Ps 138. 1-6	1 Cor 15. 1-11	Luke 5. 1-11
Server	To be advised		
Readers	To be advised		
Intercessions	To be advised		
Sound desk	To be advised		
Flowers	Elizabeth Hodges / O Green		

ROSTERS FOR		JANUARY
GARDENING		Volunteer required
 MOWING ROSTER		Rick Fisher
FOOD and FREEZER MINISTRY		N.B. Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to hand out home cooked goods to people presenting for Emergency Relief. However, pre-prepared goods such as frozen packaged foods are acceptable.

GARDENING ROSTER

We are in **URGENT** need of more people to go on the gardening roster. Several people who were on the list are no longer in the parish or health issues prevent them from continuing.

Both the front garden and the Memorial Garden require attention with weeding and general tidying up.

If you feel you could help fill some of the gaps on the roster, please contact Robyn Sweetnam on 0498 968 394 as soon as possible.



PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

FOR JANUARY

6th Peter Searcy
 8th Robyn Ashby
 13th Neil Geddes
 17th David Clarkson
 27th Lorraine Sims

FOR FEBRUARY

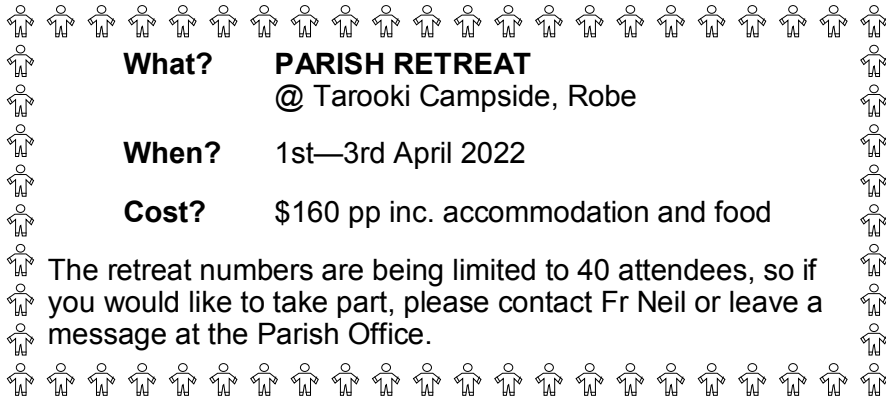
1st Heather Allen
 4th Peter Coulson
 6th Pam Miller
 8th Sandra Grant
 9th Maree McIntyre
 10th Fran Laslett
 13th Lisa Searcy
 14th Val Linder
 27th Glenyse Nott

We wish them all a very happy birthday!!



Please check to see if your name is on the list at the back of the church — and if not, and you would like to have it appear—please add your name to the listing.

Thank you



What? PARISH RETREAT
@ Tarooki Campside, Robe

When? 1st—3rd April 2022

Cost? \$160 pp inc. accommodation and food

The retreat numbers are being limited to 40 attendees, so if you would like to take part, please contact Fr Neil or leave a message at the Parish Office.

Do you Know?

In the vestry above the TV is a box framed tapestry. It is surrounded in mystery! No one seems to know of it's origins but it was obviously deemed very important to preserve it for future generations.

It has been identified by Dr Linda Walker (Curator of the Needham 22 Faithful Gifts exhibition) to be of outstanding beauty.

If you know anything about the object or know someone who might, please contact Bill Hudd on 0477 504 223. Many thanks.

or a community or a nation. Never underestimate the power of the touch; especially when God does the touching.

God's call may come at an inopportune time, but he never sends forth his servant alone. We have the promise of God's presence. "Then the LORD said to me: Do not say, 'I am only a youth,' for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the Lord's declaration" (Jer. 1:7-8). Before Jeremiah could experience God's presence, he had to go where God sent him, speak what God told him, and reject fear. Someone once said that when God calls us to a task, he does not give us a road map to follow and then leave us to our resources. God walks with us. His presence gives us the strength to stand in the face of every assault. Jesus felt that same Presence. He and the Father were one. He could go on because God walked with him. What a difference it makes knowing that when we are being sent, someone is going with us. We know we do not have to walk the lonesome road alone, that we have a traveling companion.

The Lord did not give Jeremiah a joyful message of deliverance to announce, but a tragic message of judgment. Consequently, Jeremiah would be misunderstood, persecuted, arrested, and imprisoned. More than once his life was threatened. The people did not want to hear the truth. Jeremiah told them plainly they were defying the Lord, disobeying the law, and destined for judgment. The reason for the judgment was Israel's idolatry and rebellion against the God's righteous will.

Jesus' teaching contained mercy and judgment, grace and punishment. Jesus' teachings were dangerous too. In fact, it was his teaching that cost him his life.

What God says through us may be dangerous, but God gives us the strength to endure. We have the promise of God's prevailing. "Today, I am the One who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land - against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the population. They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you" (Jer. 1:18-19).

The person who stands with God will prevail. Someone once said: "One with God is a majority". Alone we are helpless. With God we prevail. Has God called you? Then he will fulfill his purpose in you, he will equip you, he will enable you, he will protect you, he will accompany you. Are you obeying his commands? Then he is with you to protect you. Are you sharing the word? Then he will accomplish his purposes no matter how the people respond. Am I ready to be a prophet?

cf.internet

Prayer during COVID 19

Our heavenly Father, we come before you with contrite hearts, yearning for your comfort and your grace. In the midst of COVID 19 spreading across the globe, we ask in your mercy that you would stop this plague and restore harmony and health to the nations.

And we pray for the families, especially those who have lost loved ones to this disease, or those suffering from its effects. May we know the peace that passes all understanding, as we place our trust in Jesus, in whose powerful name we pray.
Amen.

